The National

Future Farmer

February - March, 1976

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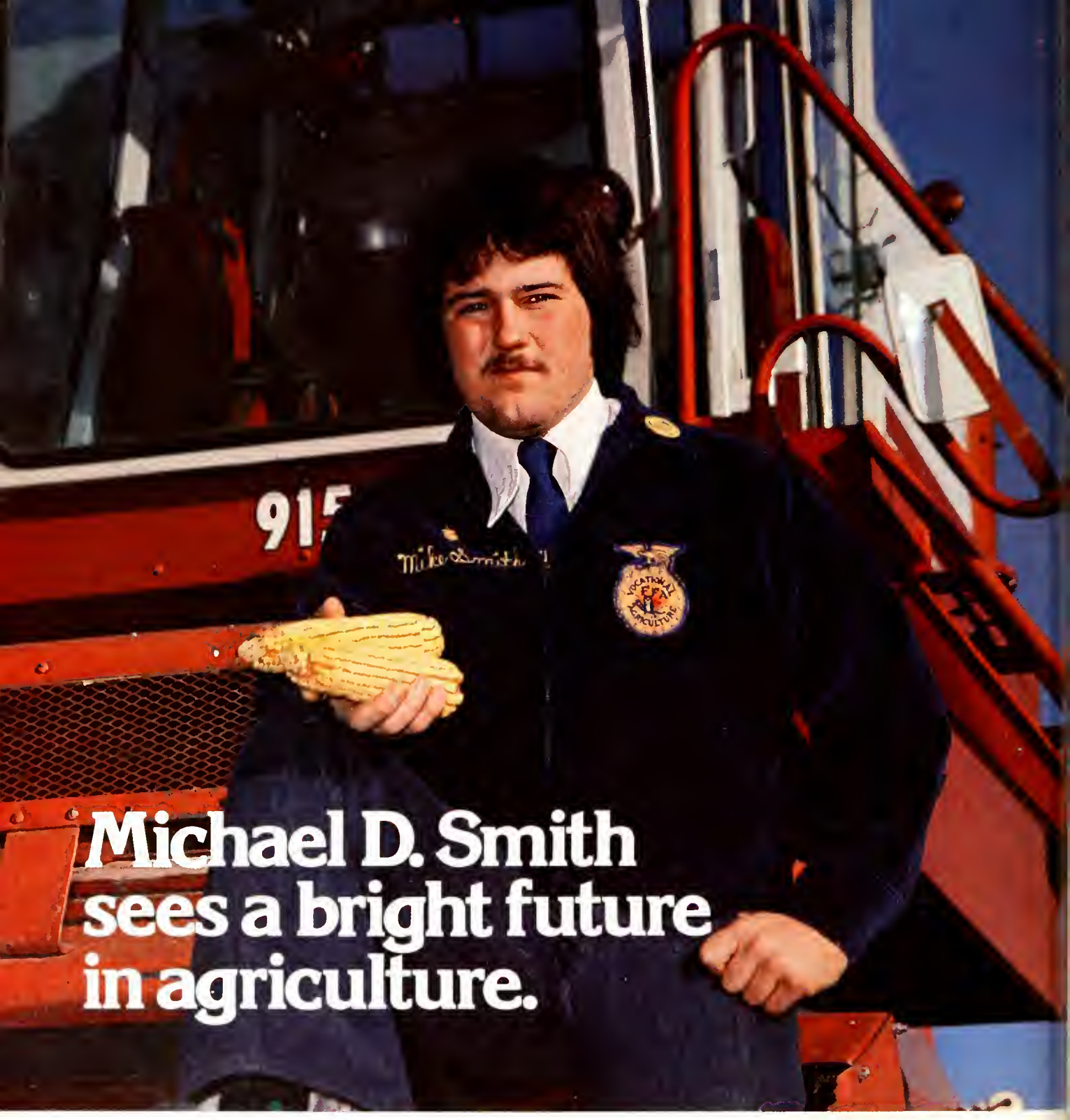

Michael D. Smith sees a bright future in agriculture.

The new National FFA Crop Production Proficiency Award program winner is from Jewell, Iowa. Mike looks ahead to a bright future in agriculture for himself, and the thousands of other FFA members.

We would also like to salute the other three regional winners. Ronnie J. Curry, Sterling, Oklahoma (Western); Jeffery C. Miller, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, (Eastern); and Ronald Jones, Covington, Tennessee (Southern).

The key to future farm production is in your hands. And they are capable hands, indeed. We at Funk's are proud to be associated with the Future Farmers of America, as sponsor of the Crop Production Proficiency Award program.

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The National
Future Farmer
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Volume 24 Number 3
February-March, 1976

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A Word With The Editor

Behind the Bylines

Not all articles in *The National FUTURE FARMER* are written by members of the magazine staff. Some are written by people outside the FFA who may suggest an article or your editors may seek an article from someone who is especially knowledgeable on a given subject. Some contributors are FFA members, or their advisors.

Sometimes knowing the person behind the byline can add extra interest to an article. Such is the case with "In The Pit" on page 16 written by Roderick Turnbull. "Rod" as he is best known, has been for many years one of FFA's most enthusiastic boosters. Before accepting his present position as Director of Public Affairs for the Kansas City Board of Trade, he was farm editor for the *Kansas City Star,* and before that, editor of the *Weekly Star Farmer,* the publication that years before had first sponsored the Star Farmer of America award. Mr. Turnbull's own experience with FFA goes back for many years. He helps with each National FFA Convention from his service on the Kansas City Advisory Council and he is frequently one of the judges for the Star Farmer of America. Because he knows the FFA so well, and futures trading, Mr. Turnbull was an obvious choice to do this article for you.

Another example is "More Forage in Your Future" on page 44 by William E. Barksdale. This author feels that forage and grassland opportunities offers one of the greatest untapped agricultural resources in America and asked for the opportunity to tell you about it. As a past president of the American Forage and Grassland Council, he is an excellent authority to speak out on this subject.

Other contributors, staff written articles, and information gleaned from many sources complete this issue. You don't see, for example, the huge stacks of materials from which "Looking Ahead" is taken, or the articles that are never printed because there is not enough space, subjects already covered, just aren't interesting, or one of the many other reasons why articles don't get printed. But people are involved all the way.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover

Bradley White, an FFA member from Colebrook, New Hampshire, earned his American Farmer degree last year on this farming operation. The scene is representative of how young people across the country actively are producing America's greatest resource—food. This issue focuses on crop production—the outlook, the processes and the people involved.

Cover Photo by Gary Bye

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hunting hints

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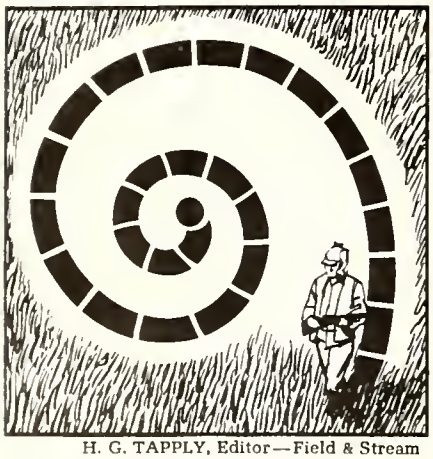

H. G. TAPPLY, Editor—Field & Stream

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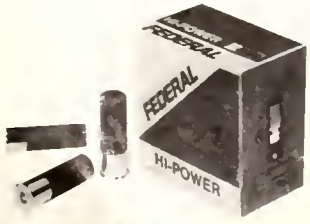

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Looking Ahead

Agriculture

INCREASED GRAIN YIELDS WITH FOLIAR FERTILIZATION—A new way to increase grain yields was revealed at the twenty-eighth annual Fertilizer and Ag Chemical Dealers conference. Researchers at Iowa State University reported soybean yield increases of 10 to 20 bushels an acre from a patented process of foliar fertilizer application. The process involves a solution of a specific ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur applied to the leaves of grain crops during the grain filling stage. Preliminary tests with corn and oats indicate that these crops will respond also.

GET SET FOR AG DAY—March 22, 1976, has been selected as Agriculture Day, 1976. The date coincides with the first Monday following the first day of spring, when the nation's attention will be focused on agriculture. Sponsored by the National Agri-Marketing Association, Ag Day serves to develop clear-cut communications between urban and rural Americans. "Ag Day has been essential," says one of its spokesmen, "because the farmer must now more than ever before rely on consumer understanding and support." For more information on Ag Day write: Mr. Ernie Marshall, Executive Director, National Agri-Marketing Association, 800 West 47th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64112.

Agriculture Day
Almost everything starts on a farm.
march 22
1976

SUPPLEMENTAL IRON FOR PIGS WITHOUT SHOTS—An innovation in swine nutrition has been introduced and will be marketed by Wayne Feed Division of Allied Mills, Inc. The product called Brood N' Iron, is a new form of supplemental iron which can be fed to the sow. The common way to get supplemental iron into the baby pig is with an iron injection. However, these shots take time, cause stress, open the door for infectious agents and are sometimes neglected altogether. Feeding sows this new product will mean extra weight, vigor at birth and more live pigs at weaning, according to its developers.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS STILL SPIRAL—Agricultural college enrollments continued their upward climb across the nation in 1975, although at a slightly slower rate. Fall term enrollment in 70 of the nation's colleges of agriculture jumped from 81,736 in 1974 to 91,487 in 1975—an increase of 11.9 percent. Undergraduate enrollment in agriculture has more than doubled since 1963. Women in 1975 made up about 25 percent of the total enrollment.

DES IN THE NEWS AGAIN—On January 9, the Food and Drug Administration proposed to withdraw approval for the use of the drug diethylstilbestrol (DES) as a growth promotant in cattle and sheep. This action is based on continued findings of DES residues, a synthetic estrogen, in livers from these animals. The proposal gives manufacturers of DES 30 days to request a hearing. If no request is received, FDA will at the end of the 30 days finalize withdrawal of the drug.

RECORD BROKEN AGAIN—Undoing a record set only last year, Beecher Arlinda Ellen 7336725, a registered Holstein cow owned by Harold, Stanley and Scott Beecher, Rochester, Indiana, has become the first dairy cow of any breed to produce a record 55,661 pounds of milk in one year. Ellen, 6½ years old is classified Excellent at 91 points and has been a national leader for milk production before.

ELECTRONIC INTERROGATOR—Cattlemen may someday be identifying their cattle and taking their temperatures electronically with a device called a transponder now being developed by USDA at Los Alamos, New Mexico. About the size of a silver dollar, the transponder is implanted under the skin of an animal and carries coded information which cannot be changed. As the animal passes the interrogator, the identification and temperature are read out and recorded.

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News in Brief

The FFA

NEW NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR ALUMNI—Richard Waybright has been elected National Chairman of the FFA Alumni Association for the coming year. The election came as part of the organization's Fourth Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Waybright owns and operates Mason-Dixon Farms near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The new chairman brings experienced leadership to the top post of the rapidly growing FFA Alumni Association having served as national vice-chairman the past year. He previously served as FFA Alumni president in Pennsylvania. Elected as national vice-chairman was David Thomas of Columbia, Missouri. "1976—A Year of Commitment" is the theme for the Alumni this year.

NEW FOUNDATION SPONSORS—Two companies have been signed as new Star Sponsors for this year's FFA incentive awards program. White Farm Equipment Company has agreed to sponsor the FFA Outdoor Recreation awards while Allied Mills, Inc. will sponsor the FFA Poultry Production awards.

NATIONAL OFFICERS HIT THE ROAD—The National Officers for 1975-76 began the new year with a visit to Coldwater, Ohio, to meet with Foundation Sponsoring Chairman Robert W. Engle, general manager and vice-president of AVCO, New Idea Farm Equipment Company. The meeting, which included a luncheon for area businessmen and FFA members was an early kickoff to the annual FFA Goodwill tour. The tour will take the officers throughout the country to meet with leaders in government, business and industry. Among early stops will be a visit with Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Russell Train.

THEY ATE IT UP—The Food For America program introduced to FFA chapters during last year's Thrust 75 meetings was highly successful during its initial year. The program is strictly voluntary. Requested packets were sent to 1,327 chapters. The information was used on visits to 17,333 elementary classes and presented by FFA members to 519,990 elementary students. If your chapter would like to take part this year or you'd just like more information, write: Food For America, National FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

FIGURES AND FACT—Recently compiled figures of vocational agriculture enrollments and FFA participation showed the 1974-75 school year to be a year of growth for both. 1974-75 enrollments for vocational agriculture listed 672,142 students taking ag classes. Of these 485,793 were members of FFA or 72.2 percent of the total. This average is a slight decline from 1973-74 when 465,180 FFA members made up 72.9 percent of total vo-ag enrollments. Of the 8,380 departments that offer vo-ag, 7,825 have FFA chapters, or over 93 percent. FFA figures revealed increasing participation in all areas of activity according to Bob Seefeldt, FFA specialist in charge of awards. "We're pleased with that aspect but are still working to involve the percentage of students taking vo-ag that are not members of FFA," he said.

RICHARD WRIGHT RESIGNS—*The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine has announced the resignation of Richard Wright, regional advertising manager. Dick served on the ad staff for 6½ years and last year served as supervisor of the National FFA Career Show. He was also chairman of the National FFA Center Alumni Affiliate. Dick leaves *The National FUTURE FARMER* to become Regional Advertising Manager for the Farmer-Stockman Publishing Company in Chicago.

OVERSEAS ADVENTURE—Eight state presidents and official delegates will be taking part in the Third Annual Study Seminar held in conjunction with International Green Week, an agricultural fair, in Germany. The one-week tour will include visits to Green Week exhibits, meetings with the youth section of the European Economic Community and the German Rural Youth Organization, a crossing into East Germany, and a stop at the Agricultural Research Station of the University of Munich. In addition, the students will tour a Bavarian farm. The participants left January 23 and will return February 1.

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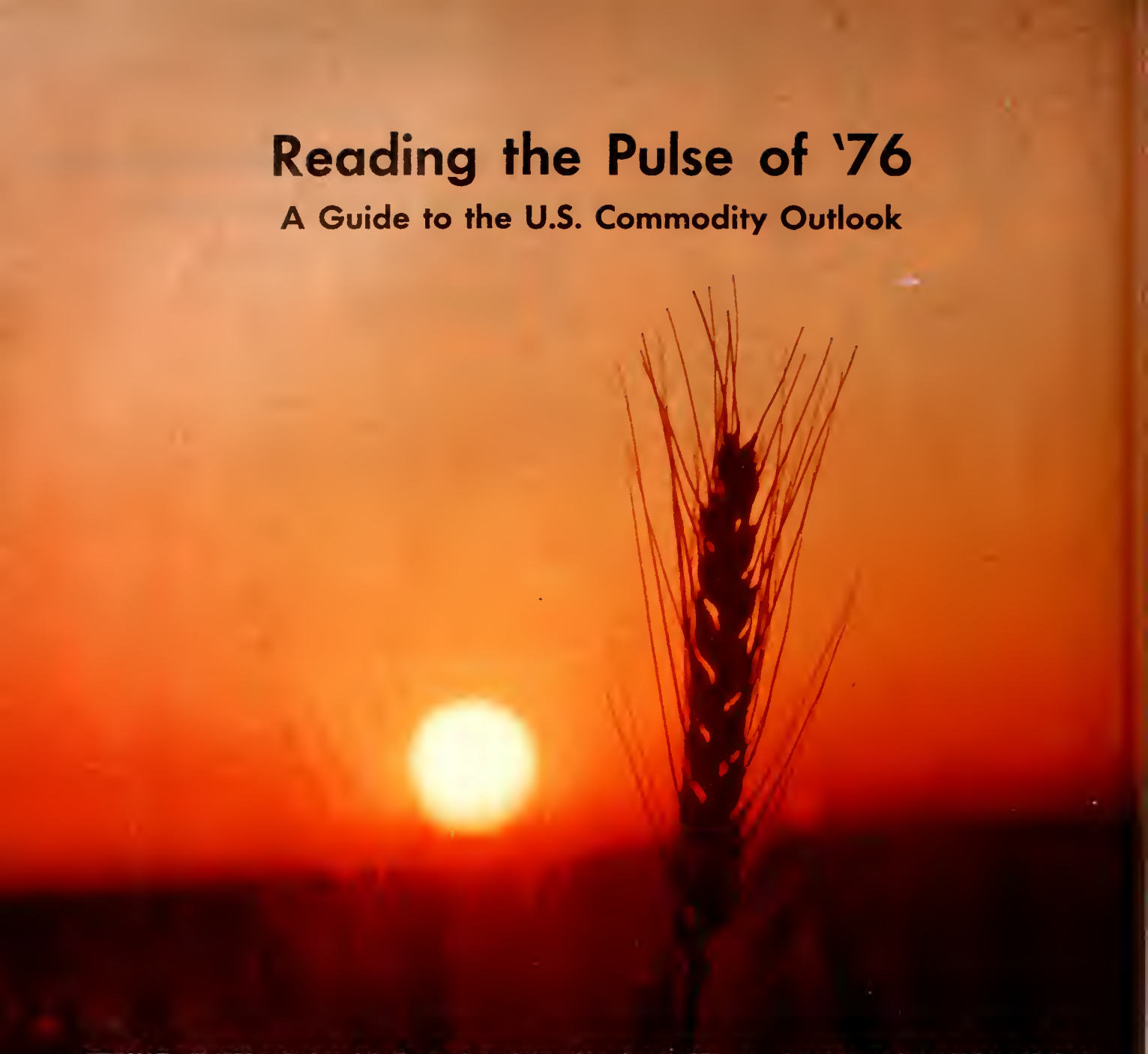
Reading the Pulse of '76

A Guide to the U.S. Commodity Outlook



WHAT will 1976 agriculture bring? The U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual Agricultural Outlook Conference held in late 1975 took a brief look back at 1975 and then made their diagnosis for the new crop and livestock year. *The National FUTURE FARMER* has condensed their findings to help you make your plans for the new year.

As you read this article a record 1975 crop is moving to market. Accordingly, returns to the farmer for the larger crop are expected to increase modestly as stronger demand will keep average crop prices only slightly below a year earlier. With livestock product prices running well above a year ago returns to livestock producers through mid-1976 are expected to hold well above the 1974-75 marketing year. At the same time, bumper crops and the upturn in livestock production will continue to slow the rise in retail food prices.

Let's look at the prospects for the major commodities.

Wheat—1975 featured a record crop, prospects for record exports and the fourth consecutive year of strong wheat prices. Last year's third highest yield on record added up to a record 1975 U.S. wheat crop, 19 percent above the previous peak set only last year. A slight recovery is developing in domestic use of wheat but the real news is on the export side where projections for 1975-76 are in the range of 1.3-1.4 billion bushels. Wheat prices which started slow in 1975 because of the projected record wheat crop and only moderate demand were driven higher with the return of the U.S.S.R. to the wheat market. 1976 wheat prices will continue to fluctuate between $3 and $4 with the market moving with export demand.

Feed—A record corn crop and sharply larger crops of sorghum, oats, and barley than in 1974 resulted in 1975 feed grain output almost a quarter larger than last year. At the same time, the number of animals consuming grain is the smallest in recent years. But in 1975-76 we see increase in domestic feeding, record large exports and some recovery in carryover stocks. Total harvested acreage of feed grain in 1975-76 is expected to be about 4 percent larger than last year's 101 million acres. Exports are expected to be a fifth to a

third more than the 1974-75 level. We look for feed grain prices to average somewhat lower in 1975-76.

Rice—The 1975-76 outlook for rice features a record U.S. and world rice crop and points to continued strong demand but some weakness in prices compared to the last two marketing years. As of November 1, the 1975 U.S. rice crop was estimated to be 9 percent larger than last year's record due to a 7 percent acreage expansion. Higher yields also contributed to the record harvest. In recent years domestic use of rice has grown on the average of about 2 percent a year and should be maintained in 1975-76.

Oilseeds, Fats and Oils—The U.S. soybean outlook for 1975-76 is for record large supplies, significant expansion in use of the seed, sharp buildup in carryover stocks next fall, and lower average prices than in 1974-75. Soybean plantings in 1976 could drop below 1975 levels. The U.S. oilseed harvested acreages in 1975 were about 66 million, down two million from 1974. Total 1975 oilseed production (soybean, cottonseed, peanuts, and flaxseed) was 18 percent more than in 1974 due to better yields. The 1975 soybean crop was estimated at 1,520 million bushels, the second largest on record. The average price to soybean farmers for the entire 1975-76 season is expected to fall sharply below the record high $6.50 received in 1974-75. U.S. soybean exports in 1975-76 should be up sharply spurred by lower prices and plentiful supplies.

Vegetables—With improved business conditions, the demand for fresh and processed vegetables is expected to be generally good the first half of 1976. Larger supplies of processed vegetables available and a moderate degree of economic recovery expected should provide the stimulus for their increased use. Grower prices for fresh market vegetables are likely to be moderately above a year earlier as supplies are trimmed. Acreage of vegetables for fall 1975 harvest was only 1 percent larger than a year earlier, and if yields are about on trend, total output could turn out as much as 6 percent less than 1974's high yielding crops.

Fruit and Tree Nuts—The 1975-76 season is generally characterized by large supplies of fresh and process fruits and tree nuts, which are exerting downward pressure on prices at all levels. However, prospective gains in consumer demand should help offset some of this downward pressure on prices. During the first half of 1976, grower prices for fresh apples, grapefruit and tangerines are expected to remain moderately to substantially below a year ago offsetting the suspected high prices for lemons, oranges and pears. The recent return to the basics in food consumption pattern in the U.S. reflects increased consumer concern about nutrition and diets will continue to enhance overall per capita fruit use.

Tobacco—The outlook for 1976 is highlighted by increasing tobacco supplies both in the United States and overseas. Prospects are for U.S. cigarette consumption to rise further from this year's record high level. Next year's tobacco quotas will probably hold the crop size to no more than this season's level. U.S. cigarette output should reach a record 655 billion cigarettes this year, 3 percent above 1974. The cigarettes consumed per person in 1975 was approximately the same as 1974 when 4,148 cigarettes were used.

Cotton—While strengthening fiber demand and competitive cotton prices highlight the domestic situation, continuing weak demand abroad and noncompetitive U.S. cotton prices in world markets feature the foreign situation. Meanwhile, sharply smaller U.S. production in 1975 (down 27 percent) is dropping current supplies to the second lowest level since 1947-48. Prices for cotton increased sharply during 1975. Fashion is playing a significant role in cotton's comeback. The "casual natural look" has been gaining favor with more and more consumers. Preliminary indications for 1976 point to larger acreages and more competitive cotton prices. Farmers will likely switch acreage back from soybeans to the natural fiber.

Timber—The demand for timber products is largely determined by the levels of activity in several important end-use markets. Given the trends in consumption, trade, and production for the various products, U.S. production of industrial roundwood products in 1975 was expected to be about 10 percent below 1974 and the smallest volume in over a decade. Some increase in consumption, imports, exports, and production can probably be expected in 1976. Of course housing activity will be of particular importance. Despite the expected slow recovery in many of the major timber product markets, the longer run outlook is one of fairly rapid growth.

Livestock Projections—The past year marked a period of substantial adjustment in the livestock and meat industry. In response to 1974's short feed grain crop, feeding costs moved sharply higher and livestock feeding was curtailed. Cattle on feed fell nearly a third while hog inventories were reduced by about 20 percent. Fed beef and pork production in 1975 was the lowest level in almost 10 years. Grain prices have recently moved lower, and the cost of feed in the upcoming year should be significantly less than in this past year. Livestock feeders are already beginning to respond. Placements of cattle on feed are picking up and hog producers are reducing farrowings less than they had earlier planned.

Cattle—Assuming no further major disruptions in the feed grain market, it now appears cattle slaughter next year might be up 2-4 percent from this year, with all the increase in fed cattle slaughter. If consumer demand holds up under these slaughter conditions, fed cattle prices in 1976 may average near or just above the 1975 level—in the $44-$48 range. Although the cow herd is 1-3 percent smaller than at the beginning of 1975, the calf crop could still be about as large as 1975's. Fewer heifers calving, culling of all less productive cows, improved winter feed conditions, and better general conditions of cattle going into the winter might improve calving rates.

Hogs—Hog producers are beginning to react to recent record high hog prices and favorable feeding prices, but significant increases in pork production are not likely before the second half of 1976. Hog prices seem likely to slip further from the winter level as slaughter rates increase. However, pork supplies will remain relatively tight through much of the first half of 1976 and prices during the spring quarter still may average in the low to mid $50's. If hog producers carry out plans reported on September 1, more pork is in prospect for the second half of 1976. If the projected pattern of farrowings and subsequent hog slaughter develops as now seems likely, total hog slaughter for

(Continued on Page 64)

The Kansas City Board of Trade Building is the location of the second largest futures trading market in the nation.

IN THE PIT

Board of Trade visitors find the speetacle interesting but a bit perplexing. The full story of the market is one you may need to know if you are planning for a career in agriculture.

By Roderick Turnbull

DURING the 1975 annual convention of the Future Farmers of America in November, literally hundreds of the blue-jacketed young men and women paid a visit to the Kansas City Board of Trade where they observed trading "in the pit" in futures of hard red winter wheat. It is safe to assume most of them didn't go away with a full understanding of how this part of the marketing system functions, although they did, at least, get to see the physical facilities in operation and saw how price changes were recorded almost minute by minute.

Board of Trade visitors always find the spectacle interesting even if perplexing. And the truth of the matter is our grain marketing system is a sophisticated business, highly complex in some phases but fundamentally simple overall. The full story of the market cannot be told in one session. Essentially, however, a board of trade or grain exchange is just a place where buyers and sellers get together. They perform the service of moving grain, through the market channels, from farmer to consumer. The three exchanges where futures trading in grains takes place are at Chicago, Kansas City, and Minneapolis.

Some essentials need to be underscored before the effort is made to understand the marketing system. Among these essentials is the fact that America is a big country. It not only is a big producer but a big consumer. And it also is the world's leader in grain exports. Grains are grown in almost every state of the union on good land and poor land. In wheat, the nation grows five kinds, hard red winter, hard spring, soft red winter, western white and durum, all of which have different values based on production (supply) and demand. When all of these factors are added together, the U.S. is unique. Some other countries are big producers, but not large on consumption because of small populations. Canada and Australia are examples. Other countries are large in both production and consumption, but are not big exporters. Examples here include the Soviet Union, China, and India.

Also, the United States has a free market.

The point of this narrative is that the United States must have a marketing system to fit its particular situation.

Trading is done by public outcry and signs of outstretched hands or fingers.

Mr. Roderick Turnbull is Director of Public Affairs, Kansas City Board of Trade.

And, the system that it has is one that was developed by experience over the decades. Nobody invented the system, nobody passed a law creating it although there are plenty of laws of a regulatory nature. The system prevails because it works.

This system includes trading in futures.

Trading in futures means selling contracts for delivery in future months and buying contracts to accept delivery in future months. To trade, there must always be a buyer and a seller. Every trade is backed by margin money to insure that both buyer and seller will fulfill their contracts. Trading in futures permits farmers, elevator interests or others who own grain to sell that grain for future delivery, while at the same time it provides a way for millers, other processors and exporters to buy grains which they will need in months ahead. For farmers, it is important to understand that importers, as an example, are just as concerned about buying ample supplies as producers are in being able to sell what they have. The buyer wants the lowest price possible, while producers naturally hope to get the highest prices. It is the competition of both desires that sets the market price on wheat or any other commodity.

The futures market or the system of trading in futures performs many functions. One is that it gives a value to the commodity traded over the entire year. This value can change every day; in fact it nearly always does. But for any given day, the commodity has a quoted value. Were it not for this, the farmer wouldn't have any idea what his crop would be worth in the months ahead.

Nor could merchandisers have any idea on what price they should charge for delivery in months ahead. Without futures, they would have to protect themselves by charging a price that would meet any contingency. This could call for a very wide margin.

So, as it is now, a farmer drilling wheat in the fall has some idea of what his crop may be worth the next July. Similarly, a country that imports throughout the year has, at any time, some idea of what grain will cost in the months ahead.

A main facet of trading in futures is what is called hedging, which is almost the opposite of speculation. Through hedging, merchandisers of grain seek to protect a profit margin in their trades which could be wiped out by wide fluctuations in the market. For this protection, they forego opportunities that might exist for much greater profits through rises or falls in prices. In other words, through hedging, they protect themselves against price changes that might put them into bankruptcy but at the same time forego the possibility of speculative profits. They live on normal profit margins.

Here are some examples of how the system routinely functions:

An elevator at wheat harvest time is buying wheat from farmers as fast as they can unload their trucks. The elevator must pay the current price, although it doesn't know who actually will want this grain at a later date or what the price will be at the time it is able to sell. So, the price the elevator will pay the farmers is based on current futures quotations, less what it is going to cost the elevator to handle the grain in and out, the freight cost to its terminal market and a margin of profit. At the same time the elevator buys the wheat from the farmers, it sells an equivalent amount in futures contracts for delivery in a future month.

Now, the elevator owns wheat in its bins and it has a similar quantity sold, in effect, on the futures market. It really doesn't care now what happens to the price. Say the price paid the farmer in July was $3 a bushel. In September the elevator sells the wheat to an exporter but by this time the price has dropped to $2.50. The elevator sells, losing 50 cents a bushel. But at the same time, it also is able to buy back its futures contracts at 50 cents a bushel less than it sold them. So, it recoups its 50-cents loss from the cash sale.

It needs to be pointed out again that in this example, the elevator, while protecting itself against the loss, also gave up the chance to make extra money should the price of wheat have risen between July and September.

In any event, the elevator, by hedging, protects its profit margin of a few cents a bushel and it stays in business.

This example also may be used to illustrate another very important facet of hedging. Banks usually absolutely refuse or they are very reluctant to lend money to elevators to pay farmers for grain unless that grain is hedged. Once it is hedged, the loan becomes safe and banks usually will lend up to 90 percent of the value of the grain at the prime rate. Thus hedging performs the service of permitting the financing of the crop. Elevators never would have such huge sums as needed in their cash accounts.

A second example of hedging comes in the export trade. An export company in August sells a million bushels of wheat to Japan for delivery in December. The export company does not at the time own that million bushels of wheat; in fact it still could be in the field. The exporter, therefore, buys December futures contracts for 1 million bushels to protect itself on price until it can go out to the elevators and buy the actual wheat. The price it charges Japan is based on the futures quotations, plus a profit margin and the cost of getting the grain loaded on ships at a U.S. port.

(Continued on page 42)

Frequently several million bushels are traded within a short period of time. It is seldom that misunderstandings occur.

A farmer may also use the futures market. In effect, he may virtually fix the price he will get for his grain by hedging.

FOR A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE

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From the Mailbag

Readers Report

Englishtown, New Jersey

I decided to put it into words what the FFA has done for me.

The FFA helped me climb from nothing. I was a failure, I guess, until I joined, found out and decided to make something of myself from this organization.

I worked and went from Greenhand to Star State Agribusinessman and a state officer. If I can do it, you can.

People can tell you everything about the FFA and what's in it for you. But it's up to one person to do something. YOU.

So many former FFA members tell me that they are sorry because when they belonged to the FFA they just sat back and did nothing, didn't take advantage of the opportunities in the organization.

It may be too late for former members but it's not too late for you. Start to set goals in the FFA, work for them and you can get something out of the FFA.

Bill Snyder, Jr.
Central Regional Vice-President

Apple Valley, California

As you might recall I was the reporter for the Apple Valley, California, Chapter for 1974-75 year. Anyway, at the association's state convention I was named Star Southern Regional Reporter for 1975. I'm certain that if it hadn't been for you printing most of the things I submitted about my chapter, I wouldn't have gotten the award. Thank you.

And for you to pass on if you will—that the reporter's job is more than everyone seems to think. I urge other state associations to set up a "Star State Reporter" contest with winners being named from their regions. This will encourage the chapter reporters to do more while in office.

Sheila Reiboldt

San Francisco, California

I was active in the Canton, South Dakota, Chapter for the past four years. I graduated in May and have since joined the U.S. Navy.

I wish to continue receiving the magazine and keep up on what is happening in the FFA and in farming.

I also want to renew my subscription for an additional three years. You will find the check for three dollars enclosed.

SR Vernon C. Hilt

Jamaica, New York

This letter is in response to an advertisement in your December-January '75-'76 edition. The ad . . . is a disgrace to the National FFA Organization and to the Future Farmer magazine. To think an agricultural magazine which is supposed to teach not only farming but animal related fields and the care of farm and wild pets would have the gall to put in an ad about selling guns.

I feel the ad is showing boys and girls that owning guns is fun. Does the company or the FFA realize the amount of accidents in the United States caused by kids playing with them? Also most kids who receive guns want to do more than have target practice with them. How many young animals and birds are massacred like this? I hope the FFA does something about these ads. If the FFA continues to put in these blasphemous ads then please very kindly cancel my subscription immediately. There is no need to refund my money.

Savak Madon

We are always glad to hear from our readers even when their comments are critical. Certainly all of us would agree that guns should not be in the hands of "kids" or anyone who does not know how to use them or will not use them properly. —Ed.

Kendall, New York

I am a member of the Future Farmers of America and I read the magazine when it comes usually from cover to cover. I believe it is one of the better magazines that we get here at home. This past issue had an item in it that was of interest to my father and myself, it was in the "Something New." I think a great idea for the magazine would be to have a page that would list the address of these companies so that if I want to write to them I don't have to try and find the address, it will be listed.

We are a FFA family. I have been in six years. My sister was in two years and my brother starts in two years. I hold the State Empire degree, Star Chapter farmer, four chapter awards, and was chapter sentinel.

Paul M. Schwenk

Morehead, Kentucky

I was very disappointed in your article concerning FFA'ers and the Horse Proficiency award program. It seems you have neglected one breed that should be of the utmost importance to the FFA—the Morgan. Not only is the Morgan the oldest American breed, but without it no other American breeds would be what they are today. This alone should have been reason enough to carry an article on the breed. Also the American Morgan Horse Foundation is sponsoring the awards.

Your failure to acknowledge the Morgan Horse while carrying articles on Western horse and jumpers cut me deeply. I am in FFA; this is only my second year even though I am a freshman at Morehead State University.

I am also an avid Morgan fan and own and show Morgans, as well as other breeds. I am not saying the other breeds should have been slighted; I showed Quarter Horses for too many years to not have respect for different breeds. I am saying, however, that you should have given the Morgan its just recognition.

Next time I hope you are more thoughtful of your sponsors.

Meghan Richey

THE ARMY RESERVE. PART OF WHAT YOU EARN IS PRIDE.

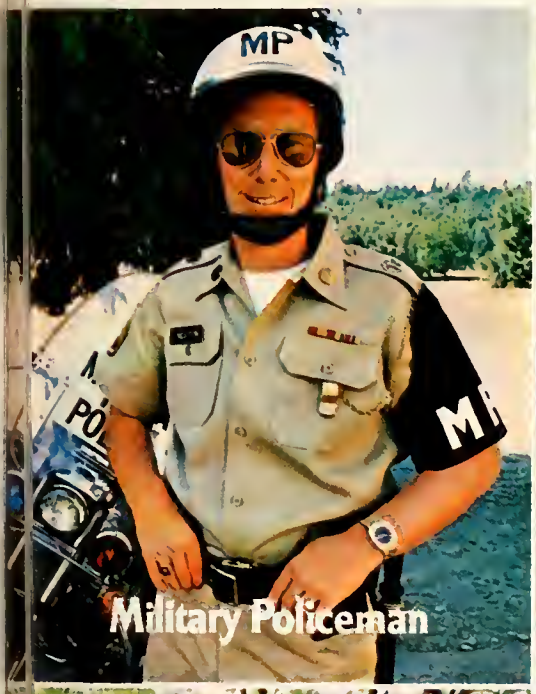
You may join the Army Reserve to learn a skill or to earn a second income. But you could come away with something a lot more important.

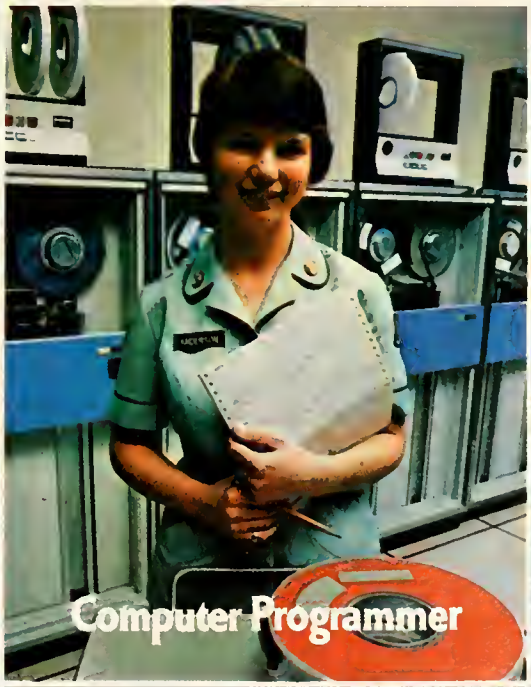
It's not something you can put in the bank. It's not something you can buy either. You pay for it with your sweat, your spirit, your mind, and your time. It's called pride.

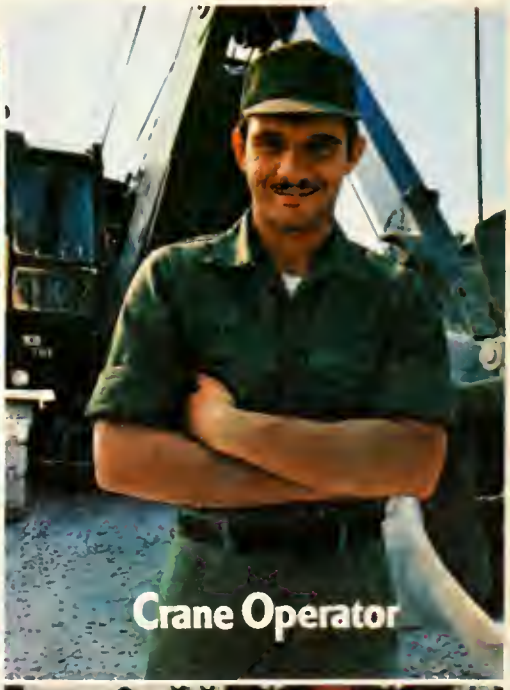
You earn it during some tough weeks of Basic Training. You earn even more during an advanced training period, where you learn a skill you chose when you enlisted.

After a few months of active duty, you start serving 16 hours a month at your local unit, plus two weeks each year of Annual Training. That's how you earn a good extra income.

A lot is asked of you in the Army Reserve. That's why part of what you earn is pride.







A few questions to ask yourself before you buy.

Motorcycling is one of the most exciting and fastest growing of all sports. And a good time to get into it is when you're young.

But before you get into it seriously, take stock of yourself. Ask yourself the following questions and see if you're ready to begin one of the most thrilling adventures of your life!

Do my parents approve?

Chances are you're going to need your parents' consent to own and ride a bike. All the psychology and salesmanship in the world won't get your parents to say "yes" until you've demonstrated your maturity and ability to take on the responsibility of owning and operating a motorcycle.

Prove you're a young adult. Be courteous. Pay attention to safety in general. Be considerate. And you will have gone a long way in getting your parents' consent.

How old do I have to be?

Age is no barrier to motorcycling fun. There are motorcycles built for preteens, teen-agers and adults. And there is no age limit on private land providing you have the owner's permission. In addition, there are numerous clubs and organizations you can join to get the most out of the sport.

However, riding on a public road or street is a different matter. Most states say you must be 16 years old, but even here there are many different requirements. Check your police department or motor vehicle bureau before you start out.

Do I know traffic laws and safety rules?

Again, check your police department or motor vehicle bureau for full information. Motorcycle laws and regulations differ only slightly from automobile laws, but they do differ. Get to know them by heart.

Unfortunately, not all safety rules are law. Some states still do not require wearing safety helmets while riding. We sincerely urge you to wear one as well as eye protection, boots and gloves. Make sure your headlight is on. And always watch out for the other guy.

How do I get the money for my motorcycle?

Working and saving is far and away the best way. Get yourself a part time job. Save gifts of money. Be thrifty.

If you're really serious, Harley-Davidson dealers have a Thrift-Away plan. It's a lay-away plan where you choose a specific motorcycle, pay a down payment and save toward the

So you're ready for your first motorcycle.

balance. There are no interest charges. All you need is a little patience. And you'll get your bike faster than you think!

In general, we advise you to avoid financing. Unless you're 18 or 21, it will take your Dad's signature. And the interest charges can really mount up.

How much will my motorcycle cost? Which kind should I buy?

If you're a pre-teen or young teenager, a 50 or 80cc off-road mini-bike might be a good bike to start with. They cost about $400 to $600 but aren't legal on public roads.

A full size motorcycle for both trail and road riding will usually run up to a $1,000 and more. It should have good off-road shocks, high clearance under the frame, and be equipped with lights for road riding.

Harley-Davidson makes three bikes in this category that cost about $1,000 or less. The SXT-125, SX-175 and SX-250. There are also other fine motorcycles made in this range.

But, if you plan on only riding on public roads, handsomely styled and sturdy bikes such as our SS-125, SS-175 or SS-250 would be excellent choices to consider.

The many true enduro, moto-cross, cafe racers and highway touring bikes are for the sophisticated enthusiast. They run from $1,800 to over $3,000 and are something to move up to once you've mastered your first few machines.

What's the difference between engines?

The kind of motorcycles we're talking about all have one cylinder two- or four-stroke engines. The two-strokes are simpler to maintain and generally provide more quick power for their weight. Four-stroke engines are smoother running and some people prefer them for street use.

All Harley-Davidson bikes from 125cc through 250cc are single cylinder two-stroke models. They also feature automatic oil injection—that is, they mix exactly the right ratio of oil-to-gas, something essential in all two-stroke models.

How much power do I need?

If you'll be doing a lot of off-road riding, a large engine isn't necessarily an advantage. Handling is. And transmission ratios make the big difference.

The Harley-Davidson SXT-125, SX-175 and SX-250 cover the general power range of cross-country and trail motorcycles.

But, if you're out street riding, make sure your bike has the gearing and power to keep up with traffic! An under-powered motorcycle can be a hazard. Many of the smaller motorcycles are illegal on expressways and through-ways.

How long should my motorcycle last?

At least until you're ready for a bigger, better bike! Seriously, it should last you for some years, and then still be in fine condition so that you'll get maximum trade-in when you buy a new bike. Look for quality features—and you'll enjoy riding your motorcycle longer and reselling it for more!

Where's a good place to shop for my motorcycle?

Naturally, we'd like you to buy a bike from an AMF Harley-Davidson dealer. He can help you with everything from financing to necessary insurance.

But first ask your friends how they like their bikes. Read the various test reports in motorcycle magazines. Visit every dealer in your area and pick up literature. Ask questions. See what used motorcycles have to offer—there just might be a good second-hand model on hand that could save you a lot of money.

Then talk it over with Dad. He's made a lot of buying decisions in his life. Make him a partner in choosing a bike, and you'll be buying the better motorcycle for it!

What else?

There must be a hundred-and-one other questions you have. We suggest you ask your friends, your dealer and motorcycle enthusiasts in general. And support your local races and rallies, mingle with the crowd. You'll be the more knowledgeable for it. And within a short time, you'll be answering questions yourself!

Get to know all you can, and you'll be off to a safe, sound start in the rewarding sport of motorcycling.

AMF
Harley-Davidson

SXT-125

SS-125

The Great American Freedom Machines.

Advisor Britnell visits expanding farm operations of Alabama's Star Farmer.

Agri-Emphasis: Crops

Breaking Into The Big Time

FIFTY years ago in parts of Alabama "forty acres and a mule" was more than a cliche. It was a fact. Although most mules are gone, remnants of those farming days still exist. Arab, Alabama, FFA Advisor Randy Britnell concurs. "You very seldom find a field over fifty acres, even now."

By comparison, James Riley has a good sized operation. "He wants to be a big farmer," Britnell says, his southern accent working to make 'big' a five letter word.

The young man referred to is James Riley Barcliff, Alabama's FFA Star Farmer. J. R. is a good example of how someone can use a small beginning to build a full time farming operation.

When James was a freshman the Riley family farm consisted of 75 acres of soybeans. Machinery totalled one 35-horsepower tractor and some small two-row equipment.

Today the overall farming operation includes 24,000 broilers, 21 head of crossbred Angus-Hereford cows, 9 sows, and 44 feeder pigs. James farms 200 acres of soybeans, 110 acres of corn, and small acreages of rye and sudan grass.

Until this year James has farmed on a 50-50 basis with his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Barcliff. His father, who works in town with a chemical company, helped his son whenever possible with the farm as did Mrs. Barcliff. An older brother, Dennis, also assisted on the farm when home from Auburn University where he is studying horticulture. Dennis is a past winner of the state FFA proficiency award competition in sales and service. Last summer he married the first girl to graduate from the Arab FFA Chapter.

The successful expansion of James' small project into a self sustaining farm operation has come through his willingness to work hard, his ability to make intelligent decisions, and a keen desire to turn the small family acreage into a full time business.

"In 1973 we bought an 85-horsepower wheel tractor and a new combine with a loan from a local bank," notes the young farmer. "The new equipment allowed me to pick up added farmland from some area land owners. Because of the small acreages available for leasing we farm 22 different small farms to make up the total operation."

During his sophomore year of high school, James attended Marshall County Vo-Tech School and studied diesel mechanics. The training has enabled him to do much of the maintenance and repair work on his machinery. In addition to the machinery already mentioned he owns a four-bottom plow, a seven-point chisel plow and a ten-foot disk. Soon he will purchase a truck needed for hauling his grain.

With this equipment, James has been able to do custom work for many of his neighbors with farms so small they cannot justify owning equipment. Last year he custom cut and hauled over 100 acres of corn.

Through his training in high school vocational agriculture classes, James has learned the necessary shop skills for farming and has set up and equipped his own farm shop, complete with arc and acetylene welders. "Mr. O. R. Dennis and Mr. Britnell have really helped me in planning and setting up this operation," says James about his two voag teachers.

Like all good farmers James keeps a complete set of records. He has found that along with raising a good field crop, one must also follow the markets closely to receive the best prices for it. He is a firm believer in diversified farming.

"This year the bottom almost dropped out of the price of soybeans while corn stayed pretty well right. It was the same with the livestock—the cattle prices dropped but hog prices stayed up. The corn and the hogs offset poor prices for soybeans and cattle. Next year the whole situation might be reversed. Diversification is a way to insure yourself that if one crop fails you still have something to rely on."

James Riley's future goal is as clear as the emblem on his FFA jacket. He wants to continue his expansion, taking over almost all responsibility for the farm. He especially hopes to pick up some bigger farming units. He's engaged to be married this summer to a neighbor girl who lives a mile away (although he says they never met until last summer). And then he wants to apply for the FFA American Farmer degree.

Can other young people get into farming? "Sure, if they take advantage of what they have and just build on it," says the Star Farmer of Alabama.

James and his mother check broiler operation, part of the diversified farm.

Celebrate '76

By Dan Reuwee

DELEGATES to the National FFA Convention two years ago suggested that the National Organization develop Bicentennial activities which would involve FFA members and chapters in meaningful projects to help celebrate this special occasion. The result was the introduction of CELEBRATE '76 at the forty-eighth Convention.

CELEBRATE '76 is an opportunity for FFA chapters to receive special recognition as a National FFA Bicentennial chapter for participation in four or more of eight ongoing FFA activities that are closely related to the aims and purposes of the national Bicentennial celebration. By joining in the celebration, your chapter will be eligible to earn a CELEBRATE '76 certificate.

The following are eight FFA activities in which your chapter can participate. Qualifications for recognition as a Bicentennial Chapter are also listed:

1. Food For America

Help tell the success story of U.S. food production to elementary students. The Food For America Action Kit has everything your chapter needs to communicate to elementary school students the story of U.S. food production. Instructional materials are designed for agricultural career education, too.

To Qualify:

Conduct a Food For America program in your community.

2. FFA Washington Conference

Come to the nation's capital, the center of Bicentennial activities, and participate in the Washington Conference program for chapter and sub-state FFA leaders. An experienced staff and National FFA Officers will help your chapter leaders see Washington, explore the National FFA Center, visit the home of George Washington at Mount Vernon. You'll develop leadership skills, contact your Congressmen, and exchange views with other officers.

To Qualify:

Have a participant in a Washington Leadership Conference.

3. Building Our American Communities

Do something in your community during the Bicentennial. That's the purpose of BOAC. It all starts in the classroom with discussion about the community and its resources. Once you know where you're going, get chapter members involved and cooperate with other community groups to make something happen in your hometown.

To Qualify:

Earn BOAC recognition at the area level.

4. FFA International—WEA

Share the nation's birthday celebration with young people from other nations. Through the FFA Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program, chapter members can arrange to live for 3, 6, or 12 months on farms in Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries. Or host students from other countries who visit the U.S.

To Qualify:

Have a participant in WEA and/or host a student from another country, and/or provide seeds, textbooks, tools, etc. to underdeveloped nations.

5. FFA WEEK

Use FFA WEEK as your chapter's Bicentennial salute to the community. A complete line of FFA WEEK promotional materials has been prepared for sale through the National FFA Supply Service to help chapters CELEBRATE '76. Use the FFA WEEK "How To" idea book to plan your FFA WEEK program. Add your own chapter photos and articles to call attention to the history of agriculture in your community.

To Qualify:

Use official FFA WEEK supplies and conduct at least one major chapter FFA WEEK activity.

6. Farmfest '76

Farmfest '76 promises to be the biggest agricultural happening of the twentieth century, combining the country's rich heritage of antique farm machinery and crafts, the newest in agricultural technology and a "World Series of Ag Competition."

To Qualify:

Sell tickets to Farmfest '76 and/or locate rare farm equipment, and/or send chapter members to the show.

7. FFA Calendar

Show your colors in '76. The 1976 FFA Calendar was specially designed to CELEBRATE '76 by illustrating the importance of patriotism in the lives of FFA members. Your chapter can distribute the FFA Calendar for promotion, profit, or both.

To Qualify:

Participate in the 1976 or 1977 Official FFA Calendar program.

8. Alumni '76—Year of Commitment

The FFA Alumni involves the community in the FFA and builds commitment. In addition the wide range of activities sponsored by FFA Alumni Affiliates results in many benefits for active FFA members.

To Qualify:

Charter an Alumni Affiliate and/or have one or more members earning the Legion of Merit Citation.

To apply for recognition as a Bicentennial Chapter merely check the programs in which your chapter participated on the Certification of Participation card that was provided as part of the CELEBRATE '76 brochure which was mailed to all FFA chapters. If your chapter did not receive the brochure or if you would like more information on the FFA CELEBRATE '76 program write: National FFA Center, CELEBRATE '76, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

Visitors to the National FFA Convention were introduced to "Celebrate '76".

On October 28, 1886, President Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the French to the American people. The statue was erected as a symbol of freedom, welcoming to American soil all who would enter and live in peace.

In 1879, seven years before the Statue of Liberty began to symbolize America, the Justin Company was founded in Spanish Fort, Texas, and Justin boots became synonymous with life in the American West.

Justin's Bicentennial Boot

97 Years Of Quality

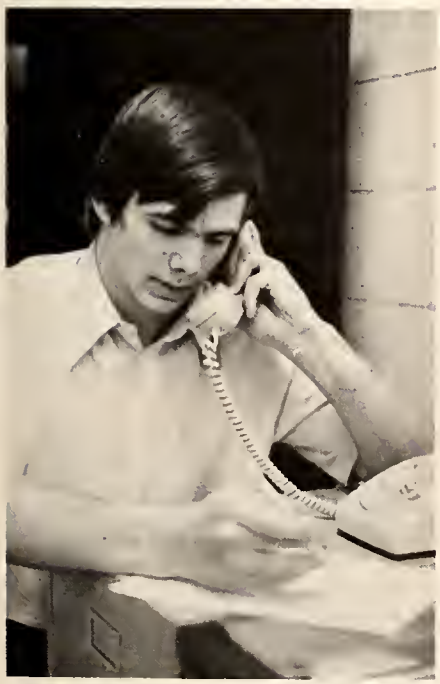
Justin

BOX 548, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76101

Wisconsin dairyman Dick Pernstein explains his operation to Mark Brecke, at left, and Joe Liegl, center. Mark and Joe are current foremen of the chore service.

30¢ Per Cow-

Plus Mileage



Joe takes another request over the phone. He and Mark are responsible for lining up jobs for the chore service.

JOE Liegl grasped the ringing phone. "Hello. Yes, sir. How many cows? Starting when? What days and for how long? What about calves?"

It's another job for the Liegl and Brecke Chore Service. Seventeen-year-old Joe runs the business in Medford, Wisconsin, along with fellow senior classmate Mark Brecke. It's founded on a simple principle—dairymen can't turn off the faucets if they want some time off or get sick. And high school students like to make money.

Members of the Medford FFA Chapter started the business in 1970, following the advice of Advisor Hugo De-Jong. Each year two seniors serve as coforemen. They select their own crew of five or six boys to act as trainees and backup helpers when jobs start mounting up. From this group two more will inherit the business the following year. It has worked like that for five years. And successfully.

During busy times of the year, Christmas, hunting season, and summer vacation, as many as three different crews may be working at one time. Jobs range up to 35 miles away and the typical job takes from two to three hours, morning and night meaning four to six hours per day. The boys spend a full chore period with the owner learning his operation. They also request written instructions on a standard chore form.

Both Joe and Mark estimate they have totaled over 1,000 hours of work in their two years with the chore service.

Dairyman Dick Pernstein, a regular user of the chore service says, "It's a good service to have available, otherwise I don't go anywhere. Other outfits have now gotten into competition with the boys which helps the dairymen too. We didn't have any help until the FFA opened business." The cost? Pernstein says, "Thirty cents a day per cow plus mileage is well worth it when you need to get away."

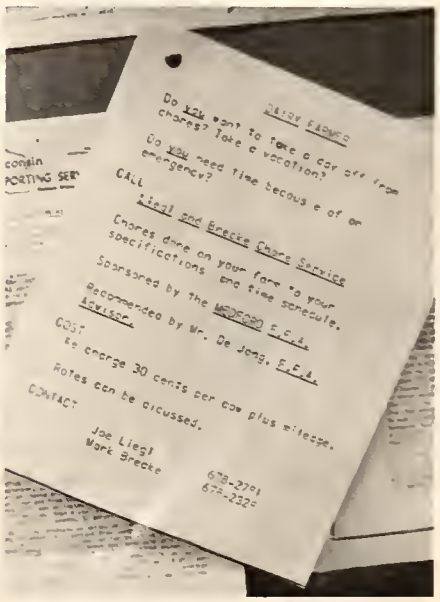
Joe, who is the FFA chapter vice-president, thinks he may want to become a dairyman himself one day. Working with the chore service, he says, has let him see the good and bad aspects of a lot of different operations and facilities.

The experience has also taught him a lot about public relations. "Some farmers really worry about leaving for a day, they know so much could go wrong. Women are even harder to please than their husbands. But we usually have the operation down pat in two days."

Fortunately, Liegl, Brecke and crew are all experienced dairymen themselves. Joe and Mark both have cows of their own at home.

For others who may want to go into this or a similar business of their own, Joe advises, "Find a need that isn't being filled, advertise a little, then work hard to do the best job you can. Word spreads fast when you do a good job."

The members rely on inexpensive advertising like this to pull in business.


DAIRY FARMERS
Do you want to take a day off from chores? Take a vacation?
Do you need time because of an emergency?
CALL
Liegl and Brecke Chore Service
Chores done on your farm to your specifications and time schedule.
Sponsored by the MEDFORD F.F.A.
Recommended by Mr. De Jong, F.F.A. Advisor.
COST
We charge 30 cents per cow plus mileage.
Rates can be discussed.
CONTACT
Joe Liegl
Mark Brecke
678-2781
672-2325

FFA's Outstanding Alumni

Phillip Alampi

C. Dana Bennett

O. W. Randolph

". . . leadership in service to agriculture"

THE FFA Alumni Association has named three outstanding individuals to receive its highest award in recognition of their contributions to the FFA and the industry of agriculture.

Named to receive the "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award" were Dr. Phillip Alampi, New Jersey; C. Dana Bennett, Washington, D.C. and Vermont; and O. W. Randolph, Illinois. The presentation came as a part of the National FFA Alumni Association meeting held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

This prestigious award recognizes FFA Alumni members for outstanding leadership and accomplishments in service to agriculture. It is presented on the national level to not more than three persons annually.

This is the second year the outstanding Alumni award has been presented. In 1974, it went to Congressman Jerry Litton, Missouri; Orion Samuelson, farm service director of station WGN, Chicago; and William Kuhfuss, past president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Dr. Phillip Alampi is currently serving as New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture. He was raised on a fruit and vegetable farm in Williamstown, New Jersey, and graduated from Glassboro High School where he was active in the FFA. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and later received an honorary doctor of law degree from that same university.

Dr. Alampi taught vocational agriculture for ten years and became nationally known through his farm and garden radio and television programs over WABC and WNBC in New York.

The achievements of Dr. Alampi are many. He has served as president of 34 organizations, three of them national and has received in recent years over 52 awards. He earned the American Farmer degree as a member in the FFA and later received the Honorary American Farmer degree. He is a past president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, the American Horticultural Society, and the National Association of Television and Farm Directors.

C. Dana Bennett is founder and president of Farm Film Foundation, Washington, D.C. He was born in Syracuse, New York, and has had an active career working with and helping people of all ages. Much of his work has been in the field of agriculture.

Mr. Bennett is a graduate of Columbia University and has a law degree from Oklahoma Christian College. Some of the positions he has held include editor of the *Washington Farm Reporter*, public relations director of the National Grange, director of the National Farm-City Council, governor of the Agricultural Hall of Fame, a member of the War Production Board, president of the Highway Safety Conference, and chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Agricultural Division of the American Vocational Association.

In the FFA, Mr. Bennett holds the Honorary American Farmer degree.

O. W. "Randy" Randolph is manager of personnel and public relations for the Moorman Manufacturing Company, Quincy, Illinois. He has been exceptional in his activities to serve agricultural youth and holds both the Honorary State and American Farmer degrees in the FFA.

Mr. Randolph was born in eastern Illinois at Hoopeston and was graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in general business. After graduation he joined Moorman and has worked in sales coordinating, sales research, and sales promotion before moving into his present position.

Achievements of Mr. Randolph include serving as co-chairman of the Illinois Task Force of Agricultural Education, past state FFA Foundation chairman and a member of the State Advisory Council on Vocational Education. He has also been instrumental as organizer of mini-leadership meetings for FFA members and the past National FFA Officers reunion sponsored by Moorman at the National FFA Convention.

In referring to these awards, Alumni Administrative Secretary Jan Benham said, "The achievements of these distinguished men exemplify the ideals and reflect honor upon the FFA and provide inspiration to current members."

The FFA Alumni Association is an organization devoted to assisting the FFA, promoting a greater knowledge of the agricultural industry, and supporting education in agriculture. The fast-growing organization is uniting adults in support of vocational agriculture and FFA activities at all levels. The address is FFA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

Maybe the reason you're not into shotshell reloading is the very reason you should be.

Money.

Believe it or not, that's one of the strongest arguments in favor of doing your own reloading.

Sure, you've got to buy a couple of goodies. But you can get away with everything you need for as low as $79.

And it can be MEC equipment at that.

Then, around ten boxes of reloads later, the whole thing's about paid for itself.

Type of Shotshell (Box of 25)	Store Bought Price* (At average discount store)	Handloaded Price* (Average discount on components)	Savings per box
10-ga. 3½" Mag., 2 oz. shot	$12.90	$2.50	$10.40
12-ga. 3" Mag., 1⅞ oz. shot	$ 7.00	$2.20	$ 4.80
12-ga. 2¾" Mag., 1½ oz. shot	$ 5.50	$2.00	$ 3.50
12-ga. Target load, 1⅛ oz. shot	$ 3.00	$1.50	$ 1.50
20-ga. 3" Mag., 1¼ oz. shot	$ 5.00	$2.00	$ 3.00

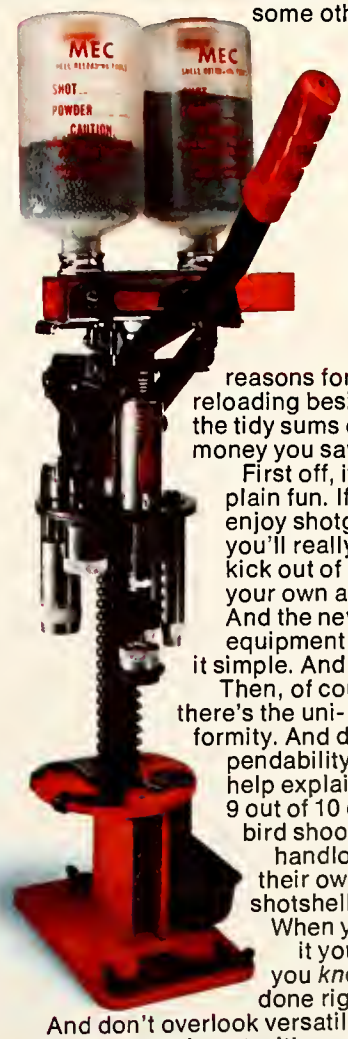
*National Survey Conducted August 1, 1975

This little chart sums it up quite nicely. The figures are approximations, but you can see that you don't have to be a weekly trap shooter to make shotshell reloading pay off.

Especially since today's plastic shotshells can be reloaded from 10 to 15 times.

Money isn't everything.

Say you just inherited a million dollars. You could afford to buy all the factory loaded shells you wanted. True. But, Mr. Millionaire, there are some other reasons for reloading besides the tidy sums of money you save.



First off, it's just plain fun. If you enjoy shotgunning, you'll really get a kick out of making your own ammo. And the new equipment makes it simple. And safe.

Then, of course, there's the uniformity. And dependability. Which help explain why 9 out of 10 clay-bird shooters handload all their own shotshells.

When you do it yourself, you *know* it's done right.

And don't overlook versatility. You can experiment with custom loads. So you wind up with tailored shells, tuned to your shotgun. And your game.

Who are we, and why are we telling you all this?

This message comes to you from the people at MEC, Inc., makers of the leading line of shotshell reloading equipment. And the good ol' boys of CCI, makers of the finest shotshell primers. Our intentions are obvious.

The more people we can acquaint with the realities of reloading, the more products we're going to sell.

So you end up saving some money. And we end up making some.

What a happy state of affairs.

Mayville Engineering Co.
Dept. FF-2
Mayville, WI 53050

You've primed my interest. Please tell me more about how I can save by reloading shotshells.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Representatives from nine nations met to plan the First World Conference.

FFA to Host First World Conference

WE'RE living in a much smaller world than the colonists who founded this country in the 1700's. Today's farmers and agriculturalists, affected by worldwide demand for food and competition for markets, are having to learn to live and adapt to that world.

The FFA with the financial assistance of Massey Ferguson Inc., will be playing a major role this year in bringing some of the world's young agricultural leaders together to learn more about each other by sharing and comparing problems, ideas, and technical skills.

At next year's National FFA Convention, the First World Conference In Agricultural Education will be held. Hosted by the FFA, the conference is one of the organization's major Bicentennial activities. It will feature seminars on agricultural education for teachers, administrators and youth leaders as well as the first International Agricultural Olympics competition.

According to Lennie Gamage, FFA's Program Division Specialist for International Activities, the conference is expected to attract nearly 150 educators and students from Europe, South and Central America, Canada, the South Pacific and Asia. "We expect the conference to contribute to leadership training and to help develop international friendship while at the same time advancing agriculture around the world," says Mr. Gamage.

Massey Ferguson's sponsorship through the National FFA Foundation of the First World Conference in Agricultural Education brought to reality a dream of agricultural student leaders from around the world who, for several years, have discussed the idea for such a conference. In the United States, delegates to the 1970 National FFA Convention voted to convene "an International Conference of Youth" in conjunction with their National Convention. The idea of such a meeting would be to establish a dialog between Future Farmers of America and young people from other countries.

In subsequent National Conventions FFA delegates requested that planning be done by FFA staff for an "International Conference" and that progress be reported to future delegate bodies.

Now five years after the idea was first suggested, final plans are being made for the First World Conference to take place. Planning for the conference got underway in November, 1975, with representatives of rural youth and young farmer organizations from nine countries serving as the committee.

Major topics outlined by the committee for the seminar portion of the 1976 World Conference centered on economic, social and educational needs of young farmers, comparison of agricultural education systems and identifying contributions of national rural youth organizations.

Each participating country will erect a booth depicting the country's agricultural education program and how the youth organization fits into the total plan. Skill and cultural demonstrations will be presented as part of the evening programs. In addition the conference participants will observe and participate in selected segments of the National FFA Convention.

In conjunction with the seminar the International Agricultural Olympics will challenge the participating young agriculturalists' knowledge and skills. Identified as areas of Olympic participation are specific events in the categories of livestock, soils and plants, forestry, tractor driving, and agricultural mechanics.

David Anderson—"It will be a gathering of young people with a similar interest, that being agriculture."

Sean Eustace—"It's an opportunity to make the world a smaller place and see the scope of worldwide agriculture."

The National FUTURE FARMER had the opportunity to talk with some of the participants of this conference planning committee during their meeting. Here are their reactions to and impressions of next year's conference—what it will mean to worldwide agriculture and understanding between nations.

Mr. Sean Eustace, National President, Irish Young Farmers' Clubs—"I see it as an opportunity to make the world a

(Continued on Page 42)

This is my land.

My land means a lot to me.

My land is in my head and my heart and in my future. I'm going to be a farmer all my life, probably. Because I believe farming, even if it is hard work, is an honest and good way for a man to live.

But I know I've got to do something to see that my land *stays* my land. Something to see that my country *stays* what it is. A place where a free man can raise a family, and sow and reap crops and take care of livestock and be *proud* of himself and what he does.

So I did something. I joined the Marine Reserve. I'm still farming my land. But I'm looking after my country, too. I spend one weekend a month, and two weeks in the summer with the Reserve.

And I am *proud* to be a Marine. A Marine Reservist like me goes through the same tough training as a Marine Regular. What I went through, I wouldn't swap with anybody for anything. I learned I was capable of doing even more than I thought I could do. Most of all I learned what it means to be a Marine.

I don't want to forget the money I get for being in the Marine Reserve. I'm a corporal now and I make over $1,100 a year for serving with my unit. Which is located right near my land.

Any man like myself could do a lot worse than find out about the Marine Reserve, and what it can do for him.

I know it's done a lot for me.

The Marine Reserve

For the unit nearest your land, mail the card or call 800-423-2600, toll free. In California 800-252-0241.

HOW TO TIE A TIE

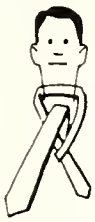
WHAT do the parliamentary procedure contest, public speaking contest, show ring, chapter banquet, and graduation all have in common? The formality of these occasions calls for a necktie and a tussle with the windsor, half-windsor, or four-in-hand knots. The accompanying illustrations should help you master these basics of "tying a tie."

The idea of a tie started in the 1400's when formality was very much "in." These first ties or collars were worn very high on the neck and buttoned tightly. By the 1800's the shirt collar had risen above the tie for the first time. The 1850's saw a tie resembling today's bow tie that was worn by everyone but a racy bunch of carriage drivers, who held out for the original "long in front" style. These men coined the term "four-in-hand," and the term and style stuck.

Whatever the origin, it looks as if the tie is here to stay. A few minutes spent learning the skill of tying will help you look better for that next dress-up occasion.

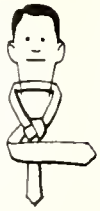
The Windsor Knot

1 Start with wide end of tie on your right and extending a foot below narrow end.



2 Cross wide end over narrow and bring up through loop.

3 Bring wide end down, around behind narrow, and up on your right.

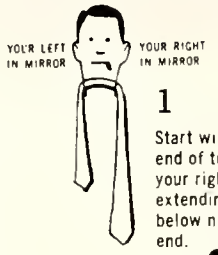


4 Then put down through loop and around across narrow as shown.

5 Turn and pass up through loop and . . .

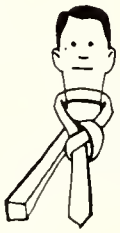
6 Complete by slipping down through the knot in front. Tighten and draw up snug to collar.

The Half-Windsor Knot

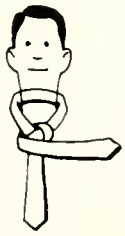


1 Start with wide end of tie on your right and extending a foot below narrow end.

2 Cross wide end over narrow and turn back underneath.



3 Bring up and turn down through loop.



4 Pass wide end around front from left to right.

5 Then, up through loop . . .

6 And down through knot in front. Tighten carefully and draw up to collar.

The Four-In-Hand Knot

1 Start with wide end of tie on your right and extending a foot below narrow end.

2 Cross wide end over narrow, and back underneath.

3 Continue around, passing wide end across front of narrow once more.

4 Pass wide end up through loop.

5 Holding front of knot loose with index finger, pass wide end down through loop in front.

6 Remove finger and tighten knot carefully. Draw up tight to collar by holding narrow end and sliding knot up snug.

A New Look at Soil Conservation

Elimination of pollution from our waters by 1983 is a national goal.

By F. W. Madison and T. C. Daniel

Renewed interest in runoff from farms has brought together personnel from local, state and federal levels to set up management programs for sediment control.

IN 1972, the Congress passed an important series of amendments to the federal Water Quality Act. Among other things, these amendments focused attention for the first time on so-called non-point source or diffuse pollution which is simply the pollution arising from lawns and streets and construction sites in our cities and from fields and barnyards in our rural areas. Pinpointing and controlling this diffuse pollution is going to be a major job requiring cooperation from universities, farmers, people in urban areas and government officials at all levels.

To our farmers, it means that there must be a careful review of farm management plans to be sure that good conservation practices are being used wherever possible, so that soil and fertilizer losses are minimal. It also means that animal wastes must be handled properly so that nutrients remain in our fields to help increase crop production rather than running off into our lakes and streams where they stimulate weed growth and can be harmful to water quality.

With this new interest in runoff from our farms, a new federal agency as far as farmers are concerned—the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—enters into the picture working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist farmers in meeting this new challenge. In Washington County, Wisconsin, the EPA through a grant to the state of Wisconsin Board of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is working toward development of a countywide management program for sediment control.

Project personnel including representatives of state and local government, the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, personnel from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and residents of Washington County have selected 12 monitoring sites where scientific instruments will be installed to determine the exact amounts of sediment and nutrients being generated by various land uses. In an agricultural watershed in the northern part of the county farming practices will be carefully monitored and the effects on water quality of good conservation practices will be studied.

A barnyard and rest area containing a sizeable dairy herd will also be monitored. During the course of the project, clean water which might run through the barnyard will be diverted by constructing ditches around the animal area and by putting gutters and downspouts on the barn. That water which still comes out of the barnyard will be spread on cropland where the nutrients can be utilized for plant growth.

In the village of Germantown two sites where subdivisions are being built will also be monitored. In each subdivision half the area will be treated to control erosion during construction and the other half will be left untreated. Results will be compared and the effectiveness of various control measures will be carefully evaluated.

In all instances the effectiveness of

(Continued on Page 60)

The authors are Project Associate–Water Resources Center and Assistant Professor of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Monitoring structures near a sizeable dairy herd measures the effect of diversion devices that have been installed.

Monitoring sites will be installed to determine the amounts of nutrients and sediment generated by various land uses.

Of Pawns, Pigs and Perennials

By Robert Haddock

FFA members are competitive, both in and out of agricultural circles. David Janello fights his battles on the chess board.

DAVID Janello lives in two worlds. On the one hand, the dark-haired, articulate FFA member from Kent, Connecticut, is at home raising hogs and gourds under his supervised ag program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

On the other hand, at 15, Dave is already an old hand in the exciting world of high level chess competition.

Dave holds the coveted Connecticut Junior Chess Championship. He also has captured five other important state trophies in a meteoric chess career that began a mere three years ago.

Dave learned to play chess at the ripe old age of six. But his talent remained dormant until he was 12. Then he met Joe Seewald, a local chess buff, who taught him a lot about the game. Dave's potential developed rapidly and he soon joined the United States Chess Federation so he could begin entering chess tourneys. He quickly waded into some highly competitive chess bouts. For the first couple of tourneys he tied for first place but lost in the playoffs.

Undaunted, Dave continued battling on the board. And by age 14 he took his trophy in a Knights of Columbus contest open to secondary school students of all ages, most of them from elite preparatory schools. Then the awards began rolling in. Dave nabbed impressive-looking statuettes in the wide-open Hartford Quad matches, in which up to 100 chess players took part. He won in Hartford Quad competitions three times before conquering the state junior title, covering grades seven to nine, in February, 1975.

"I've played people from 6 to 80," says Dave, looking back on an already full career.

Despite his successes, though, Dave does anything but fit into the mold of the arrogant, unapproachable chess champion the world became familiar with during the Bobby Fischer-Boris Spassky championship match in Reykjavik, Iceland. A quiet-spoken young man in square, wire-rim glasses, Dave is friendly and polite with a ready smile and a sense of humor about the whole thing.

That's good, because sometimes you need a sense of humor in the hectic business of chess tournaments. Dave remembers one mad dash he made to an important match to which he thought he would be five minutes late. The match was being held in a department store, which was furnishing the trophies free of charge.

His good humor and ability to relax has helped David in competition meets.

"I was running all over the store trying to find the escalators. When I finally found one, it was the wrong way. So I had to run up the 'down' escalator," laughs Dave. "I got to the match on time, but it turned out that the match had been delayed for four hours. By the time we got started, it was time for the department store to close and we had to move to the 'Y' in the middle of a game!"

Dave takes the same easy-going attitude toward the potentially tension-filled experience of a chess bout. The best advice he ever got, he says, was during a tourney to "sit back and relax. If you get nervous, get up and take a walk. Of course, I studied hard, too, but nothing helped me more than that," he adds.

But hard study was the key to success. Says Dave, "I don't think there is any talent to it. It's all hard work. That's how Bobby Fischer got where he is."

And that hard work is nowhere more evident than at a match, where Dave says that once you are relaxed you have to go almost into a "trance," concentrating entirely on the chessboard and the opponent. Consequently, "the matches are so quiet, you could hear a pin drop. The only sound you hear is the clocks ticking," he says.

"Make sure you don't make any mistakes," says Dave. "Let the other guy make them and take advantage of them."

Despite the hard work he has put into chess, Dave says he is content to keep the game as a hobby, rather than take it up professionally. Realistically, he points out that out of 50,000 members of the United States Chess Federation, "only about nine or ten" players can make a living out of their playing skill. And these are always on the go, struggling to pad out their incomes by non-serious chess means—side jobs, books, lectures, and stunt-like exhibitions such as playing blindfolded or taking on dozens of opponents at the same time. With the exception of Bobby Fischer, they are lucky if they make as much as $10,000 a year, Dave says.

"There aren't too many openings in the field," he sums up. Dave feels his vo-ag studies, however, will provide a number of excellent opportunities for him to make a living, especially since it enables him to learn so many skills. He says he was immediately impressed by his vo-ag teachers as being "the best in the school. They really seemed like they cared." He also rates the facilities available for him to learn in as "excellent."

Dave notes with pride that his FFA chapter is a Gold Emblem chapter in the top 1 percent of the nation and that it boasts 100 percent membership.

Dave keeps extremely active in FFA activities. In connection with a planned project in perennials, he is active on the greenhouse committee. He helps plan for the state conventions where, as a saxophone player, he has performed in a musical group. Jazz is his forte.

Though he insists "I'm not good enough" to take up chess professionally, even if it were economically feasible, Dave Janello has no intention of dropping this passionate avocation.

From a personal standpoint, he says chess has enabled him to "have a good time, meet a lot of interesting people and go places."

And then there is the fun of chess itself, especially the incomparable thrill of winning his first tournament.

"That's the one that gave me the most pleasure," he says. "That's when I knew I wasn't a duffer any more."

Before 1954, we made some of the most accurate 22's you could buy.

But we weren't satisfied.

When we built our first 22, quite frankly we thought we had ourselves one heck of an accurate gun.

Then 1954 came along.

That's the year we came out with Micro-Groove®. The rifling system that made an already precise rifle even more precise.

The Micro-Groove system cuts down on bullet distortion and prevents gases from escaping that can rob a bullet of its power.

And you get it in every Marlin rifle we make. Including our Model 99C 22 autoloader. But the 99C is more than just accurate.

It has a one-piece Monte Carlo stock turned from genuine American black walnut and handsomely checkered. A brass tubular magazine that holds 18 Long Rifle cartridges. Plus a solid top receiver grooved for scope mounting, side ejection, ramp front and adjustable rear sights, and a special bolt hold-open mechanism for added safety and easier cleaning.

The 99C rifle and fast-handling 99M1 and 989M2 carbines, about $66.95. Or the 49DL rifle, about $75.95. See the entire Marlin line and popular-priced Glenfield rifles, at your gun dealer's.

Also be sure to ask for our new, free catalog. Or write Marlin Firearms Co., North Haven, Connecticut 06473.

Marlin® Made now as they were then.

"RED" BURNS
and "BUTCH" FAKER
Monticello, Ind.

"When your sons want to join your dealership, you want to make sure it's a good one to join."

Our two boys always loved being around our dealership—in fact, they both started out pushing a broom when the handle was taller than they were."

And then Red Burns added, "With sons like that, you just naturally start thinking about ways to make the business grow, so it'll be worth going into when they're grown."

Red shows his son Mark how their Microfiche projector works.

Red and Butch (and nobody calls them anything else) had already begun planning the expansion and modernization of their IH Dealership, Kinney Implement, Inc.

"Then our plans got blown a little ahead of schedule."

A tornado hit Monticello in April of '74—left half the town in ruins and smashed their business to kindling and scrap metal.

"That sure seemed the time to put our plans into action," said Butch, "so we got a loan, bought 15 acres west of town, and designed a big new building."

"Along with the new building, Red and Butch also decided to add some new management ideas. So they got involved in International Harvester's XL Dealer program.

With the two sons coming along, Red and Butch were especially interested in the XL ideas on Business Succession Planning.

To assure their own continued ownership, both men set up "key man" life insurance programs with each other as beneficiaries.

Then, to make sure the business would continue, they drafted a buy-sell agreement with their sons.

"Our succession plan is a good deal for everybody."

At the end of 10 years, the sons will have bought a thriving dealership. And the fathers can retire comfortably knowing the business they developed will continue in good hands.

And has that business developed!

Working with their regional IH representative, Red and Butch attended management seminars, added XL concepts like electronic accounting, a computer parts management system, visual parts storage, and Microfiche to replace cumbersome parts catalogs.

Butch and his son Jack discuss what new equipment to order.

"The difference good facilities and good business practices make is almost unbelievable," said Butch.

From a dealership that had been grossing about $900,000 in annual sales, they quickly started climbing towards today's figure of better than $2,500,000.

The sons are taking their business commitments seriously, too.

They both started in their early teens, after school and summers, learning set-up work.

After attending college, Butch's son Jack went to work full-time—first in parts, then spending half of his time in bookkeeping, learning to operate the computerized accounting system.

Right now Red's son Mark is a Business Administration major at Indiana University, but he's eager to get back to the dealership and go into sales.

"It's definitely not a lazy life, but it sure is a good one."

Both Red and Butch admit the implement business isn't easy. "But it's a good feeling to go home at night knowing you've helped a farmer... helped him get a job done."

Red was named president of the holding company that's helping Monticello merchants rebuild after the tornado. Butch is busy with 4-H, Future Farmers, and his church. Yet they still find time in the winter to enjoy vacations with their families.

Building a good business, helping your neighbors, and living a good life—with the future of the business assured—that's what Red and Butch feel an IH Dealership is all about. And IH couldn't agree more.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

Colebrook

COLEBROOK, New Hampshire, is 20 miles from Maine, 10 miles from Quebec, Canada, and at the end of Bridge Street from Vermont. It's a long way from most other places.

In October, nestled among rolling tree lined hills, its New England church spire rising white above the bright autumn foliage, Colebrook is just reward for photo minded tourists who venture that far North. To FFA members who live in Colebrook though, fall is just one step away from another exciting season. The 115 members, many who speak French as a second language, are accustomed to their seasonal extremes and enjoy getting the most from them.

When winter has peaked and just a hint of spring is in the air the students gear up for the annual sugar season. Starting in March they travel to the FFA's 40-acre sugar bush, a maple tree woodlot where the annual syrup gathering takes place.

With proper weather, tapping may last through the end of April. Five hundred and fifty pails are set out. In a good season four or five good runs may be brought on when cold nights are followed by the warming days. One tap during a good run may yield up to six gallons of sap each day. Once the sap is gathered it's evaporated down to the proper viscosity and collected as pure maple syrup. Twenty or more gallons of sap are usually collected for each gallon of syrup.

The junior class is responsible for the sugar bush with one member elected as woodlot manager. His tasks include managing the finances, paying the taxes, assigning job responsibilities and insuring the building. Only one class period each day is used for the operation. But on many nights students will return to the woodlot to boil the sap.

"Sometimes they'll boil sap until one or two in the morning," says Mr. Robert Burrill, the eight-year veteran teach-

In October, the sugar house stands abandoned. Touched only by autumn's splendor it awaits the beehive of activity that accompanies sugar season.

Way up there in the Northland, FFA members at Colebrook, New Hampshire, make the most of their environment for both work and play.

Taps the Sap

By Gary Bye

er of Colebrook who helps make things click. "It's almost like camping out, they even take hotdogs to heat over the fire. But while they're having fun, they still must pay strict attention to the operation. The temperature of the fire is critical and they must watch for the proper color, weight and viscosity of the liquid before placing the syrup into the containers. The operation is monitored by the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture for quality control."

And where does the syrup go? "Our most consistent customer is Mr. H. N. Hunsicker, National FFA Advisor," Burrill says with a proud smile. "We also receive orders from Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas. But most of our patrons are the local residents who know we put out a good product and come back year after year."

Late in the season as the bud run begins, causing the sap to darken and sour, a sugaring off party is held. Syrup is laid out on the snow to harden, then eaten with doughnuts and hot coffee. All FFA members attend. It marks the end of the tapping season for another year.

The average take from the sugar bush is about 50 gallons of pure maple syrup—by Burrill's own admission only about a tenth of what a commercial unit could do on the same land. "But this is a learning situation," he notes. "We tap only half the potential trees. The students learn to maintain small gas engines, use power and electric tappers, identify quality trees and to work in the sugar house. They also become accustomed to running snow machines over drifts sometimes up to ten feet in depth."

That last skill though is really more of an inherent ability in Colebrook where winters last from November through April. This year the FFA chapter hosted two neighboring chapters over their winter holiday. Thirty of the members on snowmobiles (over 100 of the members have machines) traveled 74 miles cross country to meet their guests and guide them to Colebrook. The caravan made the return trip the following day.

At least once during the winter, the chapter camps out overnight. And two or three scavenger hunts are held on the snow machines.

As you might guess FFA is popular at Colebrook. The local Alumni affiliate now has over 70 members.

The ag program is designed to make the best use of all local resources and resource people. Students work on a local Christmas tree farm and at the state fish hatchery.

"As far as FFA is concerned, we try to participate in everything going," says Mr. Burrill. Students frequently spend time after school training for contests, planning FFA activities or working in the ag shop. The classroom is kept open almost every night.

In the past few years students of Colebrook Academy have won three National FFA Proficiency awards in their region, have had seven American Farmer degree recipients, and have won three National Safety awards and a silver emblem in the National BOAC contest.

What does this prove? That Colebrook, New Hampshire.—a long way from most places, is plenty close to the action.

Junior class members in charge of the sugarbush learn tapping procedures. Over 550 pails are set out during the season on the FFA forty-acre maple woodlot.

World Conference

(Continued from Page 30)

smaller place, not only to see the variety of agriculture around the world through the presence of people from different nations but also to see the scope of agriculture as a necessity for life. I think it's important to use the conference as an exercise to look at agricultural education in all its forms, from formal to informal and in developed and underdeveloped countries. And by cross fertilization of ideas to inspire one another by the work we're doing."

Mr. David Anderson, National President, New Zealand Federation of Young Farmer Clubs—"The objective of the conference will be a gathering of young people with similar interests, that being agriculture. And to develop two-way communication between them. I'd think we could all go back with new ideas. It will be a learning experience, though there will be a competitive element. The real value of it will be in identifying the good points and the bad points about our setups back home."

Francisco Yepes—"Countries should share the products of their experience with the other participants."

Mr. Peter Prokop, National Secretary, Austrian Rural Youth Organization—"What matters first is the worldwide aspect of agriculture—to stress its importance to non-agricultural parts of our society. And also to demonstrate the active part young people, students, members of our organizations are taking in this process. It may result that people won't make the mistakes again which sadly enough many countries have made in the past."

Mr. Francisco Yepes, National Executive Secretary, Future Farmers of Colombia—"It's my hope that participants from Colombia can take back all the experience and ideas from the conference to our country. It would be to their advantage to do so. But I also think my country should demonstrate the products of their experience at the conference and share it with the other participants."

Mr. Prokop—"One of the main difficulties in setting up this conference was to find competitive events which are equally meaningful to a greatest possible number of countries and to find ones which should not be judged solely on opinion but on objective fact or time. We have tried to find what the common interests are to avoid imbalances one way or the other."

Peter Prokop—"It may result that people won't make the same mistakes that our countries have made in the past."

Mr. Eustace—"We have agreed that at least five countries must be willing to participate before a competition is held. We've found elements in many contests which definitely are of worldwide character and are as meaningful in developed countries as they would be in totally undeveloped areas. However, concerning the Olympics we do not see them as being a huge contest. If anything we would try to get back to the real meaning of Olympics in the more genuine sense of participation and fellowship. That's where our emphasis would be. The competitions have an educational influence built into them and we've tried to stress that."

Mr. Anderson—"We do hope the sort of person to come to this conference will be the type of person who will go back into a position of influence back in their own country, rather than sending a team here to win the Olympics. We would wish that countries look at it the other way around and send a team that would learn the most and can go back and put it into effect in their country."

If all goes as planned, the two hundredth anniversary celebration of America's independence will also serve as a beginning for cooperation and understanding among young people in agriculture from all over the world.

In The Pit

(Continued from Page 17)

Now, the exporter has grain sold, at a price, and grain "bought" at a similar price in the futures market. It doesn't care whether the market price on wheat rises or falls. At a later date, as it goes to elevators to buy the actual wheat, it will, at the same time, sell its futures contracts back into the market. If the wheat should have risen in price, so also would the futures prices because futures and cash prices tend to rise and fall in parallel. Also, once the exporter has hedged his sale, he can go to the centers of money supply (banks) and borrow money to buy the wheat from the elevators.

The volume of trading in futures by hedgers (merchandisers) vastly exceeds that of speculators. Actually, if every hedge trade were matched exactly by a hedger on the other side, there would be no necessity for speculators. But this can't be the case.

But for a hedger to be able to hedge, he must always be able to buy or sell in the futures market. Here is where the speculator plays an important role. Speculators in the market mean that contracts always may be bought or sold at some price. In this situation, the market always is what is called liquid. Putting it bluntly, there always is a market which means the commodity always has some value.

Speculators invest their money in the hope of getting returns on that investment in the movement of prices, either up or down. It could be said that futures markets exist because of the services they provide, through hedging, to merchandisers of grain. But the speculator plays an important role in keeping markets fluid.

The United States has the major free, competitive market in the world. All the forces of supply and demand, worldwide, come together in the futures pits on American farm commodities. Ironically, those countries where the government fixes prices have the opportunity, and in fact do, relate their prices, because of competitive factors, to the prices established in America's market. How world prices would be established if there were no such one free market, no one really knows.

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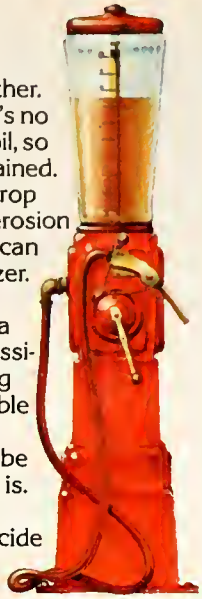

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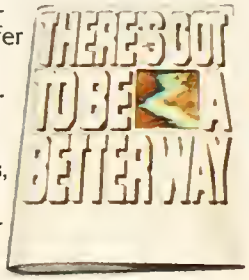

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Vast acreages of relatively productive land unsuitable for row crop production are available in the U. S. for forage crops.

Photos by William E. Barksdale

More Forage in Your Future

This author says our forage and grassland opportunities in producing meat and milk are "our greatest untapped agricultural resource in America."

By William E. Barksdale

THE next time you handle a bale of hay, pause for a moment. Consider what you've got in your hands. It's not just so many cubic feet of roughage.

Instead, you are holding one form of the nation's most untapped agricultural resources—forages. This just could be the commodity area in which we Americans can make the most dramatic food production gains in the future.

Quietly, and without fanfare, an economic revolution has been underway out in the pastures and hayfields of America.

For many decades, our nation was haunted by agricultural surpluses. Farmers were underpaid. Consumers were antagonistic toward government programs subsidizing farmers not to produce. Food was taken for granted.

And then government export policies were changed in 1972 and our agricultural economy became market oriented. Grain and oilseed prices responded upward. And great attention was given to the opportunities in producing for export markets.

As many forces were brought into action to open and serve worldwide markets for U.S. commodities the American farm scene changed. New premiums were placed on food production abilities previously taken for granted. And forages were no exception.

Consider what happened to hay prices. In 1971-72, the average ton of hay sold in the U.S. brought $28.10. In 1972-73, the price averaged $31.30 per ton. The next year, $41.60. And in 1974-75, the average price of hay sold in the U.S. reached a record $50.60 per ton.

Grains, of course, were undergoing price increases also, to the great concern of cattle feeders. Instead of placing 500 pound calves (or lighter) in the feedlot, cattle feeders began to want

Editor's Note: Mr. Barksdale, an agricultural communications consultant, writer and speaker who works from Memphis, Tennessee, is a past president of the American Forage and Grassland Council, a non-profit organization striving to bring more attention to forages in America. He also serves as Tennessee's State Chairman of the Future Farmers of America Foundation.

750 to 800-pound animals. They said to the cowmen. "You *grow* the cattle on grass and we'll *feed* 'em on grain. We can't afford to feed high-priced grain to calves that are six to nine months from being ready for market."

In spite of these new realizations about the value of forages, we still have a great deal to be done. Since 1969 there has been an 18.4 percent increase in roughage-consuming livestock units (beef and dairy cattle and sheep) in the United States. But there has been little meaningful increase in forage production.

In 1965, U.S. hay production totaled 125.6 million tons. Eleven years later, in 1975, it is 130.2 million tons—a mere 3.6 percent increase. Meanwhile, the number of beef cows and heifers that have calved is up from 33.4 million to 45.4 million in the same period—for a 35 percent increase.

The beef cattle population of America has temporarily jumped out of balance with consumer demand for beef. That's why beef cattlemen recently have been selling cows and cutting back their herds. But by 1980, according to reliable economists, we'll not only be back to where we are now, in terms of cow numbers, but we'll have an additional two million cows. Yes—two million more cows than on hand today.

Can we handle the challenge from a forage point of view? Yes. No question about it. But we're going to have to take forages more seriously than we've done in the recent past. Those cattle will have to be fed—and I don't mean on grain, except for the final finishing stage.

The high rates of grain fed to cattle a few years ago were largely a result of low cost grain. Now, if world buyers really want more of our U.S. grain, we can sell it to them. Meanwhile, we won't have to reduce our standards of nutrition regarding meat and milk. We'll simply produce those foods using more forage and less grain.

A recent USDA study shows that forage production could be more than doubled with simple use of the technology now at hand. Already, our beef cattle population in the United States is more forage-efficient than most realize. Our beef cattle get 73 percent of their total feed units from forages. Our dairy cattle, 64 percent of their total feed units. Our sheep, 89 percent.

Chances are good that we can increase those percentages, particularly if grain prices remain relatively high.

Here are some key steps to better use of forages:

1. Beef cattlemen can closely group calving dates to maximize the use of forage when it is available. Where cool season grasses (fescue, orchardgrass, etc.) are grown, spring calving is suggested. Where warm season grasses (bermuda, bahia, etc.) are grown, they should be overseeded with winter annuals (wheat, oats, rye—for grazing) and calves should be dropped in the fall.

2. Beef cattle should be bred for maximum forage converting abilities. This means controlled cross breeding to get fast-growing, early finishing animals that reach market with minimum amounts of grain.

3. Many cow-calf producers should consider holding their calves over as yearlings. In today's cattle market conditions, there is little sense in bearing the cost and going to all the work of being in the cow-calf business and then selling lightweight calves for somebody else to make money on. This is true, that is, *if* you have adequate facilities to carry the cattle over, and if you can produce enough grass to make them heavier yourself.

4. Pasture fertilization is one of the most neglected farm practices in the country right now. Limited supplies and high prices of fertilizer, coupled with relatively poor cattle prices, are largely responsible. But if producers don't do something immediately—in 1976—there will be widespread loss of desirable forage crop stands and encroachment of unfavorable species on millions of acres.

5. Rotation grazing will add considerably to the productive ability of pastures. Instead of turning cattle into one large pasture and allowing them free access, it's far better to cross-fence the area into smaller units. Turn the herd in, allow them to graze until the pasture is down to the stage requiring recovery, and then move the cattle to another area. There will be fields where the growth gets ahead of the cattle. This should be harvested as hay or silage.

Dairy cattle in U. S. get about two-thirds of their feed units from forage. The trend toward more concentrates and less forage will ultimately be reversed in the dairy industry of the future because the cow is basically a forage eater and not a grain eater.

6. Utilizing crop residues—such as the stalks, leaves and husks of our corn and grain sorghum—is an exciting potential. These residues are fine for carrying beef cows through the winter. And the big roll balers and automatic hay stack builders make it possible to recover these residues efficiently.

7. More quality awareness is needed in the production of forages. During a recent period one southern forage analysis laboratory tested Coastal bermuda grass hay samples ranging all the way from 3 percent to 20 percent crude protein. Obviously, some farmers had ignored quality, while others had worked to preserve it.

Many other steps are important as we Americans move toward more use of forage in producing beef and dairy products.

More forage in your future? Yes. The opportunities are good for farmers and ranchers to gear their livestock production systems in this direction. And this will call for know-how on the part of vo-ag teachers, extension and research specialists, soil conservationists, and the whole range of commercial representatives.

There's a big job to be done in food production in America, and forages will enter more prominently into the scene in the future. Maybe your role will be to help make better use of our amazing forage resources.

Hay sampling and analysis is important in making use of forages. The quality of hay and silage can vary widely. A forage analysis reveals the actual feed value of the roughage, providing a guide to the use of the forage in the total feed program.

Larry's farming operation with his brother and father helped him earn the state award in crop proficiency.

ALOHA LARRY?

By Gary Bye

PROPER selection of livestock can be a profitable skill. The choice of a good bull, for instance, can add real dollars to a herd's worth.

In Larry Lankard's case, skill in livestock judging had an even bigger payoff. He won an expense-paid trip to Hawaii. The trip, sponsored by the *National Livestock Producer* magazine, was first prize in the magazine's mail order livestock judging contest.

Larry took part in the contest as a class exercise. His advisor at Garnett, Kansas, Mr. Sam Harris suggested the contest for one of his agriculture class assignments.

But Larry's trip, at last word was in doubt. When I paid a visit to his home near Garnett, the senior FFA member was debating whether to make the once-in-a-lifetime trip or fulfill a commitment on his state's winning 4-H judging team. The team is scheduled to compete on the same date at Denver in the National 4-H Judging Contest. Tough choice.

But before you start to speculate on the wisdom of Larry's logic you have to know Larry Lankard. He's a young man who takes his responsibilities seriously.

Last year he won FFA's Crop Proficiency award for the state of Kansas. He's a 4.0 student, chapter FFA vice-president, honor society officer, and captain and all league defensive back for the football team (it went 7-2 last season). His good fortune in the magazine contest was well founded, since he's judged livestock successfully for several years.

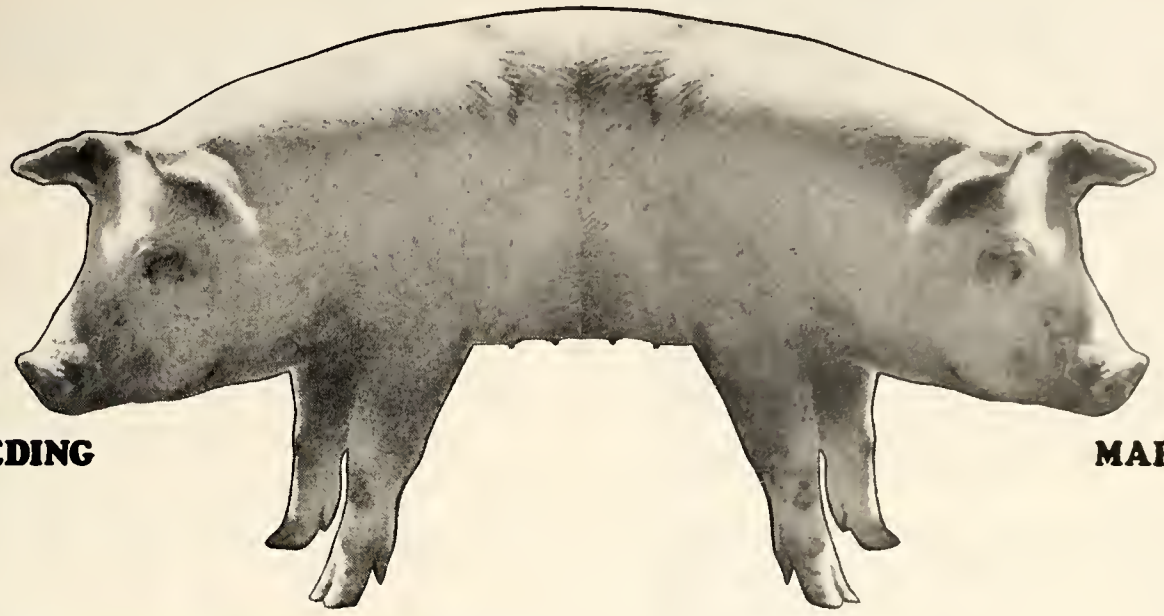
Another Hard Choice—Okay, Hawaii or Denver is a tough choice, but it's a decision with little consequence. A tougher decision Larry, like many other seniors, faces in June is what to do after graduation. One option he has is to follow his brother's example. Ken Lankard, the state's FFA Star State Farmer two years ago returned directly to the farm after graduation. Married and living near the home farm, he's now expanding into a swine feeding operation. This is in addition to the acreage he and Larry are farming in partnership. That partnership was Larry's key in winning the Crop Proficiency award, an FFA Foundation award sponsored by the producers of Funk's G-Hybrids. It's also his hope for earning the State Farmer degree.

The Partnership—In 1973, Larry and Ken purchased a 160-acre tract of land near their family farm that had been left idle and overgrown with brush. Land in that particular area of Kansas usually sells for $400 to $500 per acre but since it was unimproved, the boys made their

(Continued on Page 64)

This spring is a time for decisions, Hawaii or Denver, school or the farm.

She can't go both ways profitably on the same ration



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Special

New Trucks for 1976

1. The first Mercedes-Benz diesel truck in the United States with a bulk feed body is now being used at Shelbyville, Kentucky. Company owner claims the Brazilian built L1113 gives more miles per dollar than comparable gasoline-engined trucks.

2. Chevrolet's LUV pickup truck combines styling, performance and drivability. 1976 model changes include new engine and transmissions, refined exterior, interior styling and new front disc brakes. EPA fuel ratings show 33 m.p.g. highway.

3. Refinements highlight the Dodge pickup line for 1976 including this D-100 Club Cab Adventurer SE. Improvements include: corrosion protection on Sweptline box, and modified rear mounted center fuel tank option on Club Cab models.

4. International Trucks' newest entry in the light truck field is new Terra, with compact 118-inch wheelbase. It offers 11 cubic feet of behind-the-seat storage as standard feature. Available with two- or four-wheel drive. Power steering optional.

5. GMC's 1976 Jimmy features new body design with one-piece door frames and shorter removable fiberglass roof section. Soft ride suspension is standard on four-wheel drive model. Jimmy's new design includes a double-walled steel cab.

6. Newcomer to the Ford pickup line is the F-150 4x4, featuring a 6,050 pound gross vehicle weight rating and a 133-inch wheelbase. All Ford trucks have newly designed grille for 1976. F-150 has standard power disc drum brakes.

7. The 1976 four-wheel drive Toyota Land Cruiser is equipped with power front disc brakes for the first time. In addition, the rear brake drums have been widened. Land Cruiser comes in two-door hardtop and four-door wagon, with 4.2 liter engine.

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"There's no way I can make Infantry sound easy and good. It's rough–and good."

"Proving you could take what's coming, and keep going. That's all life was where I come from. The worst thing was to let yourself down, or let down the people you were tight with. When I joined Infantry, I already had the spirit, you might say."

Dan Overstreet was ready for the Infantry. Not everybody is. The job demands teamwork, physical skill, and brains.

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PFC Danny Lee Overstreet,
First Cavalry Division,
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Can we squeeze more corn out of each acre?

Staff Photo

HOW TO squeeze more bushels of corn out of each acre. That's a tough question that has production specialists sharpening their pencils. And it has crop scientists taking a hard look at what they can do to the ear-producing plant to enhance its productivity.

Since the advent of hybridization, corn yields have increased at an average rate of two to three bushels per acre each year. But this unprecedented efficiency by American farmers has some food forecasters worried about corn yields ten years from now.

Can we feed increasing numbers of people if corn yields level off? How long can the magic two to three bushel increase in yield last? Will farmers average 200 bushels per acre of corn by 1985?

Corn Breeders Can Do It

Some of these considerations were recently discussed by Dr. Basil Tsotsis, director of corn research for DeKalb AgResearch, Inc., DeKalb, Illinois. And it appears the two to three bushel increase in corn production should continue for at least the next ten years—provided farmers and crop scientists continue to do everything right.

Breeders Want Yield Kick

"Corn breeding today is based on the theory of heterosis," Tsotsis explains. "It means when we cross two parent lines together to make a new hybrid combination, we're looking for a yield kick. Naturally, a farmer wants the one offering the biggest yield boost."

The new higher yielding hybrids come from two areas of plant science: 1) development programs which search for source populations which can make up new hybrids, and 2) updating current technology about corn physiology.

Source Populations

Source populations may increase yields 10 to 15 percent. They contain huge reservoirs of genes which determine heredity. Source populations are the starting point in corn breeding because they're used to develop inbred lines which become parents of future hybrid combinations.

The more different the parents, the better the odds for yield advantages.

Seed companies are working to develop source populations with vast genetic diversity. But sustaining genetic diversity is becoming more of a problem now. Here's why:

In pre-hybrid days, the entire United States corn acreage could have been described as a vast breeding ground where open-pollinated varieties could randomly mate. Genetic recombinations and mutations could occur freely. Now, with hybrids, essentially all genetic changes which may affect corn of the future occur in the limited acreages used by breeding nurseries.

"Do you have anything on animal husbandry?"

These nurseries are packed with source populations which may provide the basis for a 10 to 15 percent increase in yields over present levels. Commercial breeders collect, catalogue, evaluate and distribute plant materials of potential value from most of the corn producing areas in the world, like Mexico and Central America—areas regarded as the major center for corn origin. These varieties represent survivors of the ravages of natural selection and should have a major bearing on future corn improvement work.

Updating Technology

Corn has evolved from breeding programs as a single-eared plant with little capacity for setting multiple ears or producing ear-bearing tillers. Corn breeders have been limited to what they could do with single ears on single plants—make longer kernel rows; more kernel rows; go for higher plant populations. For long-term gains in productivity, scientists must seek a broader range of alternatives for the plant to produce grain, gather sunlight and utilize water and nutrients.

For example, changes made in the functional make-up of the plant—like producing grain in a tassel instead of an ear—could contribute significantly higher gains in production on top of normal two to three bushel a year increases.

Here's a run-down of additional technology behind those green stalks with single-ears that could contribute to dramatic new breakthroughs:

Multiple-eared corns—Prolific or multiple-eared hybrids that draw equally from the entire powerhouse of the corn plant could be available soon.

(Continued on Page 60)

Office of your PCA man.

You don't have a lot of extra time to spend in town. So your Production Credit man makes your feedlot, pasture, orchard or cornfield *his* office. And these on-farm contacts help keep him up-to-the-minute on local conditions. This puts him in a better position to understand your money needs. His sole purpose is to provide you with farm credit services. And he doesn't mind a little mud on his shoes or dust on his dashboard. Hard man to find? Not at all. He may be passing your place now.

Production Credit Association

The go ahead people

FARM CREDIT SERVICE

Bicentennial Briefs

AH, SHUCKS, WAIT 'TILL NEXT YEAR—The *Wabasso, Minnesota,* FFA Chapter joined in the Bicentennial salute by sponsoring an "Old Fashioned Corn Husking Contest." Since there was no competition in the school, the members challenged the local Lions Club. Each team was to pick two 300-foot rows. The Lions had finished their two rows before the FFA finished their first 30 feet. There was also individual competition which the Lions won handily. Later the FFA members learned that most of the Lions' team had picked corn by hand as youngsters. So next year the members plan to accept some pre-contest coaching, practice ahead of time and go hunting Lion. by shucks.

Wabasso FFA members receive instructions from their FFA Advisor just prior to the corn husking competition. But it turned out to be too little, too late.

REDFIELD GIVES 'EM SHELTER—The Redfield Pheasant FFA Chapter of *Redfield, South Dakota,* completed their BOAC project in time for use by Bicentennial travelers. The 24 foot by 12 foot picnic shelter has red, white and blue stripes and a blue roof with white stars. The shelter is located in a rest park on the main road to the Black Hills.

HEMET HOMECOMING HONORS HERITAGE—the theme for the *Hemet, California,* FFA float for their football homecoming was "Liberty Is Our Destination." The float featured a seven-foot Declaration of Independence, Betsy Ross and her flag and the Liberty Bell. One of the FFA chapter's horsemen re-enacted Paul Revere's ride by yelling "The aggies are comin'."

OLD VS NEW IN RED, WHITE AND BLUE—The *Taylor County, Kentucky,* FFA Chapter constructed a display entitled "Agricultural Mechanics—Old vs New." The Bicentennial

★ ★ ★ A Bicentennial Contest ★ ★ ★
A FUTURE FOR AMERICA — FFA

That's the FFA theme for 1976 — introduced at the 48th National FFA Convention. It's a slogan that should make you stop and think about FFA and agriculture — past, present and future.

What role does FFA really play in the future of our country? Why is it important to train young people for leadership positions in the industry of agriculture? As an FFA member what role can you play in making America a better place in which to live and work? Is farming really important to the future of the world? How does FFA strengthen agriculture?

In other words, what does the theme "A FUTURE FOR AMERICA ... FFA" mean to you? Tell us in 500 words or less and become a winner in **The National FUTURE FARMER** Bicentennial contest. If your essay is judged as the best overall entry **The National FUTURE FARMER** will sponsor your registration to one of the FFA's Bicentennial Leadership Conferences held at the heart of America's celebration — Washington, D.C. The winning essay will also be published as a special feature in **The National FUTURE FARMER** magazine to be read by close to one-half million other FFA members.

PRIZES:

1. Your registration fee ($130) will be paid to one of the six FFA Bicentennial Leadership Conferences held in Washington, D.C. The four-day conference not only offers a chance to develop leadership skills, but also to visit various famous sites in the capital city and your National FFA Center. In addition the winner will receive $50 in cash to cover additional trip costs. Sorry we cannot cover travel to and from Conference. An alternative $100 gift certificate will be awarded if the winner is unable to attend.
2. A $50 cash prize.
3. A $50 gift certificate toward purchase of official FFA merchandise.

RULES:

1. Essays must be 500 words or less.
2. Entries must be typewritten and double spaced or handwritten neatly in ink on lined paper.
3. Your entry must be postmarked before April 15, 1976.
4. All entries become the property of the National FFA Organization and cannot be acknowledged or returned unless you specifically request us to do so.
5. The contest will be open to all bona fide, dues-paying FFA members on our roles as of April 15, 1976.
6. Entrant's name, address, phone number, chapter name, state and age must be printed on an attached cover sheet.
7. Mail entries to "A Future For America," **The National FUTURE FARMER**, P.O. Box 15130, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.
8. Entries will be judged by members of **The National FUTURE FARMER** staff. Selection will be made on originality, conclusions drawn, and overall effect achieved by the essay.
9. Winners will be notified just prior to publication of the June-July issue of the magazine in which the winning essay will be printed.
10. Prize winnings will be the sole responsibility of the winning individuals in regard to tax rules.
11. Judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Taylor County FFA's Bicentennial Booth was displayed at Kentucky State Fair.

booth showed changes of agricultural mechanics from 1776 to 1976. Admiring the display are State President Steve McCuiston and Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Wendall P. Butler.

MACHINERY TO BE FOUND BY MOUND—*Mound City, Missouri,* FFA is attempting to collect old farm equipment to be exhibited in their new livestock show building prior to scheduled Bicentennial farm tours late in June, 1976.

AND A PLUG FOR SAC CITY—A fire plug, that is. *Sac City, Iowa,* FFA Chapter is sponsoring a fire hydrant painting project for their community. They'll paint them Bicentennial colors and designs.

BIG WALNUT TAKES BICENTENNIAL TRIP—Niagara Falls; the Adirondack Mountains; Boston; Plymouth; Mystic, Connecticut; and Hershey, Pennsylvania, (Chocolate City, U.S.A.) were highlights of *Big Walnut, Ohio,* FFA's Bicentennial trip. The trip acquainted members with the beauty of the United States and let them visit points of patriotic and historical interest. Thirty-four members traveled through nine states and Canada in five days. The trip was part of the chapter's three-year BOAC program to celebrate the Bicentennial.

FFA members from Big Walnut, Ohio, chat with guide on the Mayflower II.

The Weaver 22 Scopes: As inexpensive as good scopes can get.

You can get a Weaver 22 Scope for less than $14*. It's not a toy; it's a scope with big-scope features. It's Weaver's handcrafted quality. It's for real.

Some 22 shooters go without a scope, rather than spending a lot. No need to sacrifice. You can afford a scope with an achromatic lens system with high clarity, no distortion. You can afford a scope tough enough to take it. You even can have a variable for less than 20 bucks*. Your Weaver dealer can show you more value than you'd expect.

Enjoy a 22. But enjoy it more with a Weaver 22 Scope. You'll learn the value of a scope at a price that's well worth it.

Weaver's free 1976 catalog can tell you a lot about hunting... and about scopes, sights, and mounts. Just write W. R. Weaver Company, Department 93, El Paso, Texas 79915.

*Suggested retail price

WEAVER SCOPES
The Great American Scope.

FREE BEEF CATTLE FILMS

Beef up your next class on cattle production, or add a unique touch to a program you are responsible for, with one of these entertaining and educational, 16mm, color, sound motion pictures. Check the box for the film or films you want to show and fill in the date you plan to show it. Be sure to allow at least 3 weeks for delivery. Then fill in your name and complete mailing address, clip the entire ad and mail it today. There's no charge, you just pay return postage.

Your First Step — Shows young people and their parents how to get the right start with a beef project. Features the 1971 Star Farmer of America. (14 minutes)

☐ Show date_____

Production Records — Registered and commercial cattlemen tell why they are using production records and how records have helped them breed better cattle. (28 minutes)

☐ Show date_____

100 Years of Angus — Tells the story of importing the first Angus into the U.S. in 1873. Shows importer George Grant's original home and ranch on Kansas plains. (14 minutes)

☐ Show date_____

Your Best Beef Buy — Shows why it's important to buy top quality beef, how to recognize quality and how to broil a steak. Brief explanation of USDA grades. (11 minutes)

☐ Show date_____

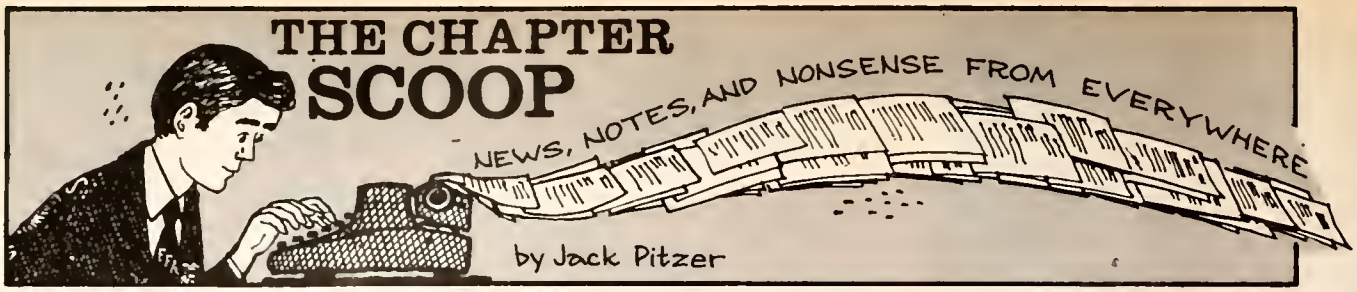
Name_____

St. or Rt._____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

American Angus Association
3201 FREDERICK BLVD., ST. JOSEPH, MO. 64501



The *Jewell-South Hamilton*, Iowa, Chapter conducted a committee draft like pro football players to see who is on which committee.

N-N-N

Collegiate FFA officers from *Mitchell Vo-Tech* performed the Greenhand ceremony at *Platte*, South Dakota.

N-N-N

"No varmints with an odor" are eligible for points in *Hopkins*, Missouri, varmint hunt.

N-N-N

Delegates of *Coe-Brown*, Northwood, New Hampshire, Chapter stopped at FFA Center on way back home from National FFA Convention. They'd been just at 3,000 miles. Traveled by van.

N-N-N

Tulare Western, California, FFA fair booth won first: "Story of Grapes."

N-N-N

Val Shelton, Jo Whitmore, and **Tony Fenimore,** *Lynchburg*, Virginia, gave hourly demonstrations on pesticide safety at state's fair.

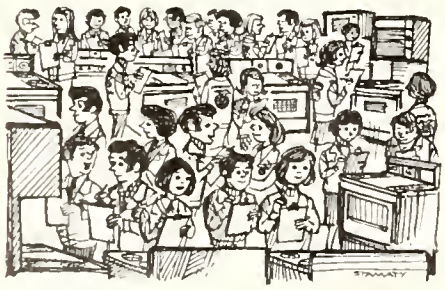
N-N-N

When **Ronnie Storey,** *Belen*, New Mexico, chapter president got word that National President **Bobby Tucker** had a three hour delay at the Albuquerque airport, he and his fellow chapter officers came to the rescue. They took **Bobby** out to eat and each had a chance for a personal visit with the president.

N-N-N

Middlesex County, New Jersey, FFA sweetheart committee awarded **Russell Archer** the title. He was given a sweetheart banner to wear for FFA WEEK.

N-N-N



Burwell, Nebraska, Chapter hosted 250 for state range judging contest.

N-N-N

Destructive crowd: "We smashed 6,500 chemical cans in cooperation with the local elevator." *West Bend*, Iowa.

N-N-N

And, "We crushed 40 cars, 20 combines and machinery." *Gowrie*, Iowa.

N-N-N

A new 300-gallon water tank was built for *Wellston*, Oklahoma, rural fire truck by FFA.

It took all day for *Martinsburg*, West Virginia, FFA to boil 210 gallons of applebutter in kettles over open fires. Had it all pre-sold.

N-N-N

Madelia, Minnesota, is adapting a "big brother" plan to help new freshmen.

N-N-N

Liz Felton, reporter, *Encampment*, Wyoming, sends word that her chapter is restoring a Model-T Ford.

N-N-N

Hope every chapter has heard about CELEBRATE '76. A plan to encourage involvement by chapters in FFA activities for America's Bicentennial.

N-N-N

Burns, Wyoming, entry in parade was a swather, manure spreader and a tractor with plow. Signs read "Come on Broncs. Mow 'em Down. Spread 'em Out. Plow 'em Under."

N-N-N

Eleven new members of *Sandpoint*, Idaho, got new FFA jackets paid for from profits of harvest auction. They had worked hard on the project.

N-N-N

John Moore, *Big Walnut*, Ohio, member has a cross-bred gilt which had a litter of 17 pigs. Mother and babies doing fine.

N-N-N

Name of the *North Central*, Morrowville, Kansas, FFA rock band is "The Green River Ordinance."

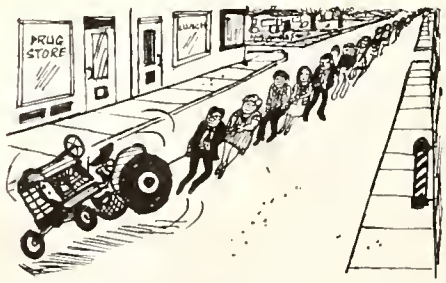
N-N-N

During lunch hour at school an exhibit of animals and a plant sale attracted attention of all students in the school. Created favorable PR for *North Hollywood*, California.

N-N-N

Rod Bjornstad sends word of cooperative sales venture of *Walhalla*, North Dakota, FFA and Jaycees to earn monies for handicapped.

N-N-N



Community tractor pull is main money maker for *Tollesboro*, Kentucky.

N-N-N

Connell, Washington, held a spook house Halloween night, attracted 280. Made money for March of Dimes.

A big buck contest was sponsored by *Delta*, Colorado. Two teachers judged racks. Three prizes were awarded.

N-N-N

Receive the *Colton*, California, *Roundup*—their chapter's newsletter. Also one from *Houston*, Missouri.

N-N-N

Fathers and members were treated to barbequed lamb burgers following Greenhand initiation at *Calmar*, Iowa.

N-N-N

Dennis Tavares, *Righetti*, California, had the grand champion lamb at the junior livestock expo in the famous Cow Palace.

N-N-N

Freshman **Louise Fugate** ate her way to victory at *Covina*, California, second annual pie eating contest.

N-N-N

New swine pens that *Vinita*, Oklahoma, FFA is building for fair will be red, white and blue for Bicentennial.

N-N-N

West Lebanon, Indiana, has Happy Birthday America and their name on their '76 Official FFA Calendars.

N-N-N

"Our chapter held a snowmobile workshop featuring a safety film. Sledding followed." *Thompson*, Iowa.

N-N-N

A combine decorated with safety messages was an attention getter for *Charles City*, Iowa, Dad's night.

N-N-N

Members of *Aurelia*, Iowa, built a cannon to fire at home football games whenever team scores.

N-N-N

Blackhawk, Pennsylvania, Chapter sells cold cider at home football games in concession stand.

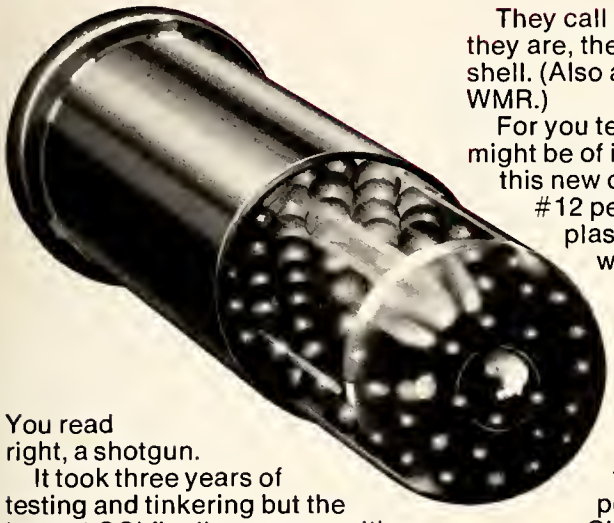
N-N-N

They've got three "large" brothers as officers of *Imperial*, Nebraska, Chapter. **Kevin Large** is vice-president. **Dale** is reporter. **Dean** is secretary.

N-N-N

Keep those cards and letters coming. Especially want to hear about new and different activities or projects being carried out by your chapter.

The good ol' boys just turned your .22 into a shotgun.



You read right, a shotgun.

It took three years of testing and tinkering but the boys at CCI finally came up with a way to make your .22 Long Rifle handgun or rifle shoot like a shotgun.

Not by developing a new kind of gun, but by developing a new kind of cartridge.

They call it, clever devils that they are, the Mini-Mag Shotshell. (Also available in .22 WMR.)

For you technical types, it might be of interest to note that this new cartridge has 165 #12 pellets nestled in the plastic capsule, all of which scoot out of a handgun at 1,000 feet per second, to form a tight 12″ pattern at 15′ away.

But instead of thinking of the statistics, think of the possibilities.

Close-in tin can blasting.

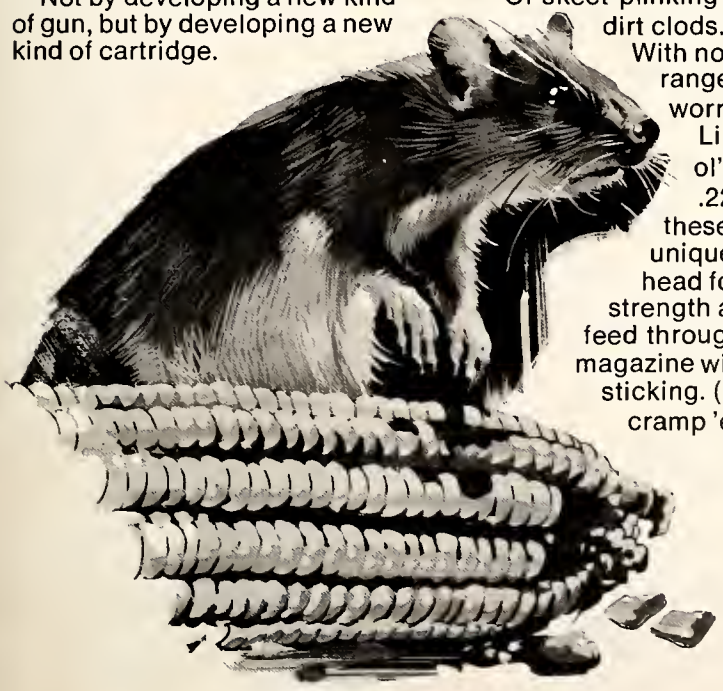
Peppering pesky pests.

Target shotgunning.

Or skeet-plinking at airborne dirt clods.

With no one-mile range to worry about.

Like the good ol' boys' other .22 ammo, these have the unique reinforced head for added strength and they'll feed through any clip or magazine without sticking. (No crimp to cramp 'em.)



So if you own a gun chambered for .22 Long Rifle, you ought to own a few boxes of these. 20 rounds to each flat plastic pack, which fits in your shirt pocket like it was made for it.

For plinking, for pests, for fun. For just $1.49, suggested retail.

A small price to pay for a new shotgun.

Sporting Equipment Division
OMARK INDUSTRIES

Snake River Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho 83501

More Corn

(Continued from Page 54)

More efficient use of fertilizers—Genetic differences have been established regarding the concentration of P and K and other nutrients in the corn leaf. These differences may mean corns that can better utilize available nutrients.

Better drought resistance—A gene called "latente"—from the Spanish word meaning "dormant"—has been isolated from a Mexican variety. It's a type of drought avoidance mechanism. The gene holds the promise for the development of hybrids that can make a respectable yield even under severe drought stress. Such hybrids are now under tests.

Tassel seed—Here's a dramatic example of what could lead to a big jump in efficiency. Through the use of two genes, tassel seed and tunicate, it's possible to move grain production from ear to tassel. Reason: tassels have more sites for grain formation than ears—approximately 2.5 to 1.

"Ear corn has between 800 to 1,000 sites for kernels," DeKalb's Dr. Tsotsis explains, "but on a tassel, there are more than 2,500 potential kernel sites. So we're talking about boosting corn yields not 15 or 20 percent, but say 250 or 300 percent."

Such hybrids could boost harvesting efficiency, too, because tassel seed dries down much faster for harvest and all you'd do is clip the tassels off the short stalks.

If new tassel seed hybrid passes the stress tests, corn yields may increase up to 300 percent over current levels.

More protein and starch—Corn productivity can be increased on a per acre basis without altering grain chemical composition or nutrient value. Another alternative: improve grain chemical and nutritive value with or without yield increases.

Normal corn produces protein that is deficient in certain essential amino acids—like lysine and trytophan—which are building blocks of protein. The quality of corn protein can be improved by incorporating a gene called "opaque-2" which adds improved levels of lysine and trytophan.

What's all this mean? These improvements could allow hog producers to use corn as either a total feed or one that requires reduced amounts of protein supplement. It could also impact areas of the world where corn is used directly for human consumption.

Still Many Unknown Variables

From a genetic viewpoint, it appears there'll be a steady flow of higher yielding hybrids each year. And that's good news to any corn farmer. But planting the right hybrid is only the first big step in corn production. There are many more factors that enter into the efficiency scheme—weather, adequate fertilizer supplies, disease or insect problems. Only time will tell what 1985 yields will be. However, corn researchers say average per acre yields can continue to increase . . . if.

Soil Conservation

(Continued from Page 35)

sediment and erosion control measures will be compared to the costs involved so that those management and conservation practices which will show the greatest reduction in sediment and nutrient movement for the lowest cost can be identified. This is particularly important for farmers who find themselves being called upon to produce more and more food while at the same time they are being asked to reduce whatever pollution might be arising from their farming operations.

In conjunction with the water quality monitoring and pollution abatement programs, social scientists and lawyers are working with elected officials and citizens alike to develop a sediment management program for Washington County. Educational programs are being developed to inform the public about sediment and related environmental problems. Field monitoring sites will be used as outdoor laboratories for high school students including vo-ag students and FFA members.

The Washington County project is but one of a series of projects being run across the nation and in Canada to determine the causes of non-point source pollution and to develop means of controlling the problem without imposing any unnecessary costs on any particular segment of society. All of us have an important stake in the quality of the water of our lakes and streams.

The Congress has made the elimination of pollution from our waters by 1983 a national goal. This will be a big job which can only be accomplished if we all pitch in and work together.

"Something tells me this sight unseen acreage we bought is not too fertile."

The most important part-time job in America.

The New Minutemen of the Army National Guard share a unique American heritage with George Washington. This self-reliant young surveyor and his Virginia militiamen helped the British virtually oust the French from North America.

Self-reliant young Americans still protect our country and our communities in today's Army Guard, of course. One weekend a month thousands of these modern day citizen-soldiers come together all across the nation to train and sharpen their skills. And you can join them.

More than 400 career specialities are open to you. You'll earn good pay for learning one of them, too. About $45 for just one weekend a month to start. And, of course, with every promotion there's a pay raise. Another thing, we're close to home.

Be one of The New Minutemen. Contact your local Army Guard Recruiter, complete and mail the attached coupon, or call toll free 800-638-7600 (except in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). In MD call (301) 728-3388.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The Guard belongs.

Aloha Larry

(Continued from Page 46)

purchase for a little over $150 per acre. The first year the land was cleared, some of it by hand according to Larry, and half was planted to fescue for pasture. The other half was tillable and this summer the Lankards harvested their first soybean crop from it. The land yielded 31 bushels per acre. In addition, Larry and Ken also farmed 156 acres leased from a neighbor.

Both Larry and Ken trade labor for the use of their father's machinery, farm shop, and fatherly advice. Mr. Keith Lankard farms 1,000 acres and runs over 100 head of registered Polled Hereford cows. In 1967 he was named the state's outstanding Young Farmer.

The whole Lankard family is committed to conserving soil and natural resources. Larry has won awards for his work in soil and water management. Recently they have been working with the Soil Conservation Service to improve their land by building a series of soil terraces. Minimum tillage is used to retain soil moisture and prevent serious runoff.

The Other Option—Another choice Larry has for his future is to enroll in a nearby vocational technical school, probably in agriculture. This seems to be the way he's leaning now. After that he says he still would like to return to the farm. "Of course it depends on the availability of land. The place really isn't big enough for all of us. My dad jokes about it, says he doesn't see why anyone would want to be a farmer anyway. But whenever a piece of land comes up for sale or rent and Ken and I start to talk about it, he's more than willing to encourage us. Like all farmers, it all depends on his mood and the market."

Whatever choices Larry finally makes, Denver or Hawaii, the farm or school—you can be sure it will be based on some pretty sound thinking.

"May I use the encyclopedia, Dad?"

"Need to stand on something to reach my comic books."

Pulse of '76

(Continued from Page 15)

1976 may be up around 3-5 percent from 1975.

Sheep and Lambs—Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter in 1975 totaled about 8 million head, down about 9-10 percent from 1974. The reduction in slaughter in 1975 basically paralleled the 11 percent reduction in the sheep and lamb inventory noted at the beginning of 1975. The 1976 inventory of sheep and lambs will probably continue down as it has each year since 1960, resulting in another 5-10 percent reduction in sheep and lamb slaughter for 1976. Prices through next year will likely continue strong and choice slaughter lambs should match or exceed 1975's record of about $43 per 100 pounds. With reduced feed costs in the upcoming year, feeder lamb prices could strengthen relative to fed lamb prices.

Dairy—The U.S. dairy industry saw market conditions in 1975 change almost as dramatically as they did in 1974. But in many respects, 1975 was just the opposite of a year ago. Early 1975 was dominated by heavy supplies with prices staying close to support levels and USDA buying substantial quantities. The situation changed last summer when lower milk production and strong demand sparked sharp increases in wholesale dairy product and farm milk prices. Milk production likely will run above year earlier levels in early 1976 as gains in output per cow offset the relatively small decline in cow numbers. Production will depend on milk prices, cull cow prices, crop conditions and subsequent feed prices and developments in the general economy. Potential consumer resistance to the rapid rises in retail prices and increases in milk output could combine to lower milk prices. However, farm milk prices will remain well above year-earlier levels and the recent increase in the price support level will limit any price decline.

"My neighbor was one of the first to pioneer the four-day work week."

Poultry and Eggs—The passing of a year has seen poultry producers go from a highly pessimistic attitude to a guarded but optimistic one. A year ago, producers were faced with bleak prospects going into 1975. However, conditions are much more favorable today. There has been some recovery in the general economy, prices of competing meats are higher and production costs are below a year earlier. A continued decline in egg consumption does cast some shadows on prospects for 1976. Unless consumer demand for eggs picks up, the 2 percent larger production that is expected in 1976 could result in egg prices being below year earlier levels. It is questionable whether egg product use will ever get back to the level attained in 1974. There have been several egg product substitutes introduced in the past couple of years and these substitutes are making inroads into the traditional markets.

Conclusion—As always in making a crop projection, the most certain thing about the upcoming year is uncertainty. Will the weather again spread its generosity over our country's farmers or shift its stinginess back from the plains of Russia? Will our own government decide it should pay the middleman in marketing the goods we produce? Will farmers continue to farm to their maximum or play a more conservative role? Will projections for adequate supplies of fertilizer, machinery, and pesticides hold true? The "ifs" are enormous. But given the right opportunities the heartbeat of U.S. agriculture will continue to beat strongly.

Big ticket opportunity*

Farmfest 76...a "date" with a million people.
Earn money by selling your share of the million tickets for this official FFA "Celebrate '76" activity!

Farmfest 76: Truly a big-ticket happening for **all of agriculture!** This massive exposition (September 13-19, 1976, near Lake Crystal, Minn.) is America's Bicentennial Salute to Agriculture. Attendance is targeted at one million! Attractions include: 121 acres of commercial exhibits...1,000 acres of field demonstrations...20th World Championship Tractor Pull, and a "world series" of other exciting ag competitions, too...an FFA Center...world's largest collection of antique tractors and equipment...19th Century farmstead operated by FFA members...top-name entertainment daily. ☐ And Farmfest 76 is a big-ticket opportunity for **you and your chapter!** Details: Farmfest 76 was made an official FFA bicentennial activity at the '74 national convention. Today it's one of 8 approved activities for the FFA's "Celebrate '76" competition. You can sell advance-sale, reduced price tickets (earn some nice commissions!)...help locate rare farm equipment...help build this great event in other ways... plan a chapter trip to the exposition. ☐ Your chapter should have already received our **complete "action kit"**; ask your advisor about it today...and talk it up! Need more information? Drop us a line: Farmfest 76, Box 76, Lake Crystal, Minnesota 56055. Or fire off the coupon today!

FARMFEST 76™

RECOGNIZED BY AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

*Cut your chapter in:

We'd like to do our part for Farmfest 76. Please send the following items to my FFA chapter:

- ☐ Another "action kit," which explains how we can make money selling tickets.
- ☐ Info about organizing a chapter trip to Farmfest 76 next fall.
- ☐ Info and prices on caps, jackets, t-shirts, posters (shown at left), bumper strips, patches, pennants, pens and pins.
- ☐ Contact me for suggestions on where to locate antique farm equipment and other historical material.
- ☐ Put me on the list for the FREE bi-monthly "Foreword to Farmfest" newsletter.

Mail to: **Farmfest 76, Box 76**
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

Name _____

Chapter _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

FFA in Action

They Built A Whole Town

The Bowling Green, Ohio, FFA Chapter in cooperation with the city of Bowling Green helped sponsor Safety Town, a program of safety education for children.

The purpose of Safety Town is to help children cope better with ever-increasing safety hazards. Certified teachers and a police officer, with the assistance of volunteer aides, cover such topics as pedestrian, motorist, bus, stranger, police, fire, railroad crossing, bicycle, drug and playground safety.

Bowling Green FFA's role in Safety Town was the construction and painting of 8 buildings, 12 stop signs, 18 street signs, 4 traffic lights, 2 railroad crossing signs, 4 school crossing signs and 8 pedestrian crossing signs for Safety Town.

Safety Town was held at one of the local elementary schools.

Twenty-five children—four, five and six years old—attended classes from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and a similar number from 1 to 3 p.m. for two weeks in the summer. Three similar sessions of two weeks each followed for a total program of eight weeks for the summer. Classes are held in the school and outdoors in the parking lot.

Thirty junior high school students volunteered to assist with the program. There was an open house attended by more than 50 persons. At the open house numerous speakers were there including Mayor Charles E. Barlett and Richard Barbree, chief of field service of the Ohio Department of Highway Safety.

The parents are invited to remain throughout the two hours of the first day of the session and encouraged to arrive for the final 15-minute wrap-up on all other days.

Planning for the project began two years ago. Bowling Green has the seventieth Ohio program affiliated with National Safety Town, Inc. The Safety Town idea was supported by over 60 businesses, organizations and local governmental agencies. *(Don Schneider, Reporter)*

The miniature town complete with stop signs and buildings was built by FFA to help teach traffic safety to children.

Skits Sell Safety

The Mauston FFA Chapter in Wisconsin recently completed their Corn Harvesting Safety Project. The project consisted of four radio skits which were broadcasted daily during the corn harvesting season over WRJC Radio, a local radio station. The skits pertained to the different aspects of corn harvesting safety. They were comical versions of accidents that could happen around such corn harvesting equipment as a silage chopper, silo filler, corn picker and grain elevator.

The skits started out with two people that were named "Wally" and "Randy" working with a piece of equipment. As they would be talking a situation would occur requiring a choice between safe or unsafe methods. Of course, Wally and Randy would choose the unsafe method and it would result in an accident.

The skits used sound effects that simulated that of the equipment running and of the accident occurring. Immediately after the skit a safety message was presented.

The project was considered to be a great success and the chapter received many fine compliments for their efforts and were asked to present similar skits in other safety areas. *(Steve Czys, Safety Chairman)*

Training for Fires

The Wheaton, Missouri, Chapter in cooperation with the Wheaton volunteer fire department has formed a reserve fire fighting department.

The reserve department is made up of seven senior FFA members.

The group is presently undergoing training for their new role under the direction of fire chief Bob Lombard.

The program was initiated as a part of the chapter safety program and in discussion with city officials it was felt that training of this type would be both beneficial now and in the future.

Instruction for the group will include training films depicting various types of fires, becoming familiar with fire fighting equipment and actual use of equipment on a controlled fire.

Members of the group are George Abramovitz, Lindy Lombard, Bill Jandt, David Stewart, Dennis Renkoski, Steve DeCocq and Ronnie Coleman.

Cows and Coloring Books

For six years the Hereford, Maryland, FFA has operated what they call Kiddie Farm for elementary school children. Most of the children are from the cities and so Kiddie Farm takes them through many phases of agriculture. It is held right at the school, three times a week in both the spring and fall.

The children are divided into groups of four to six as they leave their bus. Each teacher is given a box of workbooks and Smokey the Bear bookmarks to distribute among the students when they are back at the elementary school.

There are many things for the children to see and do. They get to touch, pet or hold any of the animals which are raised and kept at the school. Among those animals at the school are dairy and beef cows, horses and ponies, goats, sheep, pigs, ducks, chickens, guineas, geese, turkeys, rabbits, snakes, hamsters, guinea pigs, rats and mice. New this year was the addition of Maryland crabs and oysters along with several bluegill, pickeral and trouts donated to Kiddie Farm by the Department of Natural Resources of Maryland. In addition, the children are taken on a tour of the barn, small animal lab, ag mechanics shop and the greenhouse.

From the greenhouse, the children

move on to a trailer where they are given several plants to transplant. The plants are wandering jew, marigold and tomato. From the trailer the children are taken to see logs getting cut up. Each child receives a round block of wood taken from the log which has "Hereford's Kiddie Farm" printed on it. In addition, the children learn a little about the forestry industry.

There are also grain exhibits to look at and farm machinery to look at and play on. Each child is given one pony ride and as many hayrides as he wants.

The hit of the day for the children is the arrival of Smokey the Bear. Smokey rides on the hayride most of the day and warns children not to play with matches.

If there is still time after all of this, there are plenty of hills to roll down and piles of straw to jump in. (*Terry Cornett, Reporter*)

No question that Smokey The Bear was the hit of the day for those children who visited the well run Kiddie Farm. FFA had planned thoroughly and got as much publicity as possible.

"It's tough being young chicks when you can't afford fine feathers!"

There is lots of variety for the kids like climbing onto the big farm machinery.

Muscle Men

Talawanda, Ohio, Chapter cooperated with the Rotary Club in Oxford on a beautification project.

The club bought barberry shrubs to be planted along two parking lots close to Oxford's hospital and the FFA members provided the "muscle" in planting the shrubs. A local landscaper provided assistance and advice.

Also within the past year, FFA members have reseeded the football field, helped clear brush for a picnic area at the police firing range and painted and distributed trash barrels around the school. (*Dan Zimmerman, Advisor*)

Grapes and Cattle

Mt. Whitney, California, FFA at Visalia High is getting a unique new school farm.

Financed through the sale of an old school farm originally purchased by interested people in the community, the new $110,000 farm is being built on 12½ acres of school owned land.

The new farm was designed by instructor John Sylvia with emphasis on low maintenance.

Visalia is rapidly becoming an urban area and a 200 percent increase in ag enrollment in the last four years warranted a school farm with strong student orientation. Its basic purpose is to provide experience for students.

The farm itself is divided into a livestock unit which is completely fenced with chain link. It has a 200 feet x 50 feet barn housing a feed room, storage room, ten steer pens, twenty lamb and hog pens and a 50 feet x 50 feet multiple purpose area. Shades, waterers and other additions have been built by students. A center lane for exercising, a gutter system and sump, a squeeze and loading chute make jobs easier.

Two acres of permanent vines and trees are used to supplement education

(Continued on Page 68)

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1. Title of publication: The National FUTURE FARMER.

2. Date of filing: September 18, 1975.

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3A. Annual subscription price: $1.00; FFA members 75¢ paid with dues.

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6. Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor: Publisher, Future Farmers of America, National FFA Center, 5630 Mt. Vernon Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22309; Editor, Wilson W. Carnes, 5630 Mt. Vernon Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22309; Managing Editor, none.

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8. None.

9. None.

10. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during preceding 12 months.

11. Extent and nature of circulation:

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Last 12 Mo.	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total number copies printed	198,043	503,200
B. Paid circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales	None	None
2. Mail subscriptions	193,713	198,684
C. Total paid circulation	193,713	198,684
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means. Samples, complimentary, and other free copies	1,802	2,390
E. Total distribution	195,515	501,074
F. Copies not distributed.		
1. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	2,518	2,126
2. Returns from news agents	None	None
G. Total	198,033	503,200

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

WILSON W. CARNES, Editor

FFA in Action

(Continued from page 67)

with many varieties of grapes and fruit trees. A 200 feet x 100 feet nursery area is used by all ornamental horticulture classes and some students are presently carrying on garden projects. This area includes a small Christmas tree plot. Eventually any student wishing to have a nursery plot may do so. Turf plots are also presently being planted. Five other two-acre plots are used by students to carry on field crop projects. All plots are pipe lined and irrigatable. *(Jim Peters, Reporter)*

Bathtub Races

Every year during the last week of February, Baler Alley is the hub of activity during San Benito, California, Joint Union High School's lunch period.

The reason is the annual Hollister FFA Bathtub Raees. It may not be the Daytona 500 but don't try to convince the residents of Hollister, California, that the races aren't important.

The Bathtub Races were started many years ago by agricultural instructor Gordon W. Tibbs to create excitement and draw attention to the annual FFA Barn Dance and has become an annual activity and a school tradition. More than just the "Aggies" at school race tubs. And as you can imagine, the competition is rugged and skills developed are all with one thought—to win!

The rules have been kept simple and have varied little in the history of the races. The bathtubs must be metal and big enough to hold three people—a driver and two pushing with poles.

To start the week, the tubs are judged by three faculty members for design and decor. The races go all week with points given for each race. At the end of the week, the tub and crew with the most points win the right to keep a perpetual trophy for one year plus a trophy and cash prize to keep for themselves.

The race course itself varies from 50 to 100 yards. The shorter races are 50-yard sprints and the longer races are 50 yards down and 50 yards back. The track is flat with only push power available which leads to some innovative bearing and wheel design.

During race week, some very unusual names are suddenly the topics of discussion—the victories of **Godfather,** the crash of the **Texas Teacup** when the girls were driving, the neat tail on the **Hog Wagon,** the super paint job on **Sadie,** and the wheel that came off of **'Til Midnight** in the relay race.

Although the competition is keen, there is still time for fun on Thursday when the Barn Dance Queen candidates have their race. And when the girls drive, watch out! Besides local newspaper coverage, there are news broadcasts on the area TV stations. Through all the race activity we have the Baler pep band to thank for spirited race music.

Incoming freshmen eagerly ask about the Bathtub Races so they can form a team and build their own tub. They are

Unusual mechanical designs and crazy names for the bathtubs are just part of the attraction at a popular event.

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The race attracts a large crowd from the student body and even townsfolk who have gotten the spirit of the event.

anxious to get into the stiff competition and try to beat last year's winner. We now have a senior, Gregg Bonturi, who has put together three winning teams consecutively. With everyone anxious to beat him and Gregg wanting to make a four-year sweep, we don't have to worry about competition or student interest slackening during the last week in February.

Pizza Party and Profit

The Luxenburg-Casco, Wisconsin, FFA Chapter sold 1,752 pizzas to help finance chapter activities.

One hundred members took advance pizza orders around the community.

The 11-inch cheese and sausage pizza cost the chapter $1.04 each and sold for $1.75. The fresh frozen pizzas were delivered to the school on a Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Members then picked up the pizzas and delivered them and collected the money.

High salesman for the project was Randy Hallet who sold 119 pizzas.

A pizza party was held as part of the regular FFA meeting following the sale. *(James Marcks, Advisor)*

Building Blocks

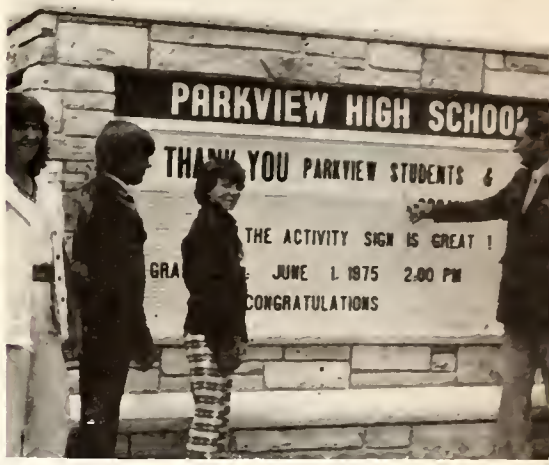
FFA at Parkview High in Oxfordville, Wisconsin, took on the project to construct and enclose two activity signs purchased cooperatively by the various school organizations.

The FFA itself invested $2,200.00 in material and two and one-half weeks' work in laying over 400 cement blocks and ten tons of Lannon stone to complete the structure for dedication on June 1, 1975.

The chapter finished the lighting for the structure this past summer in conjunction with Akey Welding and Revis Electric. *(Julie Thostenson, Reporter)*

(Continued on Page 70)

Rick Hoff, Dennis Neal and Bill Jones help local mason Hank Williams lay a foundation for the new activity sign. Below, the school board president is cutting the ribbon at the dedication.



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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 69)

Wishing Folks Welcome

This year Oregon, Wisconsin, Chapter constructed a wishing well welcome sign on the south end of town. They previously had built a sign on the north end of town but it was destroyed when road construction went through.

The new sign has a nine-foot diameter field stone base and is 16 feet high. The FFA emblem was also hand painted by the chapter girls. The frame was built and erected by the chapter boys.

On three hot days in June, Keith Shotliff, Deane Paulson, Bob Anthony and Dan Johnson laid the field stone base.

Total assembly of the welcome sign took about three months. "Welcoming people to Oregon was well worth all our time and effort."

Members and their advisor show off the new sign they designed, built and put up to welcome people to the community. It also reminds the public of FFA.

Doing For Yourself

The Wachusett Regional High School FFA in Holden, Massachusetts, is building their own 80 foot by 25 foot greenhouse. All of their 126 members are involved. The project was started in January of 1975 and much of the work has been done after school, weekends and summer vacation. The project which was proposed over nine years ago was held up while waiting for funding. The idea was finally sold when it was suggested students could do a majority of the construction.

According to chapter officer Erin Kelly the students put in an average of two to three hours per day. Maura Longden, a state FFA officer from Wachusett, says the jobs are all listed then students choose what they want to work on.

In addition to the greenhouse, students are also building a classroom meats lab.

The chapter is proud of their 100 percent membership since the chapter was founded 23 years ago.

It was really a do-it-yourself effort to get a new greenhouse. Everyone got a chance to contribute his or her talents.

Tractor Park In

The Sullivan County FFA in Indiana has an annual tractor drive during National FFA WEEK.

On one day during the WEEK members drive their tractor to school and park them in the front parking lot of the high school—along the highway so everyone can see them.

"We do this to publicize National FFA WEEK and to let the town know that the FFA is an active organization. Along with our tractor drive we also try to have a radio and TV program during the WEEK." *(Chuck Prose, Reporter)*

It's not a machinery dealer's lot or a farm sale. It's a tractor drive in at the local school to gain publicity for FFA.

Signs Tell the Story

Kendall, New York, FFA members constructed a pair of these signs to place at the entry of their town. The local high school art department helped with the art work. The next project the chapter hopes to undertake is construction of a Bicentennial bike trail in front of the school.

Financial Festival

A Fall Festival was sponsored by the Christiansburg, Virginia, Chapter and its Alumni affiliate.

"After expenses, the FFA and Alumni will probably earn over $200," said Advisor Larry Jewell. Money will be used for such projects as scholarships to FFA conferences and conventions, scholarships for individual students, and charitable contributions.

The Fall Festival included games, contests, and exhibits. Local craftsmen exhibited and sold their work, with 10 percent of the sales going to the FFA.

Over 1,000 visitors browsed among displays of jewelry, decoupage, quilts, paintings, and other handmade items.

One of the most popular booths was the Country Store opened by the FFA. On sale at the Country Store were canned goods, apple cider, honey, molasses, and vegetables. One hundred and fifty dozen eggs were sold at 60 cents a dozen.

This was the first year for the Fall Festival. "We hope it will be annual," said Jewell.

A local group provided bluegrass music. Door prizes were donated by the First National Bank of Christiansburg, Western Auto, Rose's, Leggett, and Shelton-Walters.

Exhibits included terrariums, crafts, oil paintings, Christmas decorations, wooden plaques, hand-sawed coin jewelry. Boy Scout arts and crafts, rock plaques, owl jewelry, and dough art.

A Blind Trail

Middlebury FFA Chapter, Vermont, has constructed a Trail For the Blind. The trail, located in the D. M. Means Memorial Woods is one-half mile long, covered with three to four inches of bark. The construction was sponsored by a local memorial foundation and college. It's an attempt to educate persons toward the feeling of blindness. A knotted rope is used as a self guiding market to the trail, plants are identified with signs stamped in Braille. There will be three small bridges to cross and a small pond. "It's for all people of all ages," says Advisor William Scott, "from grade school to the aged."

The blind trail is designed to offer a non-blind person an opportunity to "see" what it is like to be blind. A person using the trail can close his eyes and follow a special guide rope.

"No, Uncle Willie has not tried rubbing fertilizer on his bald head!"

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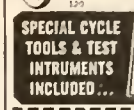

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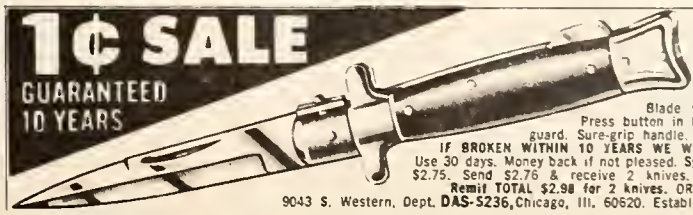

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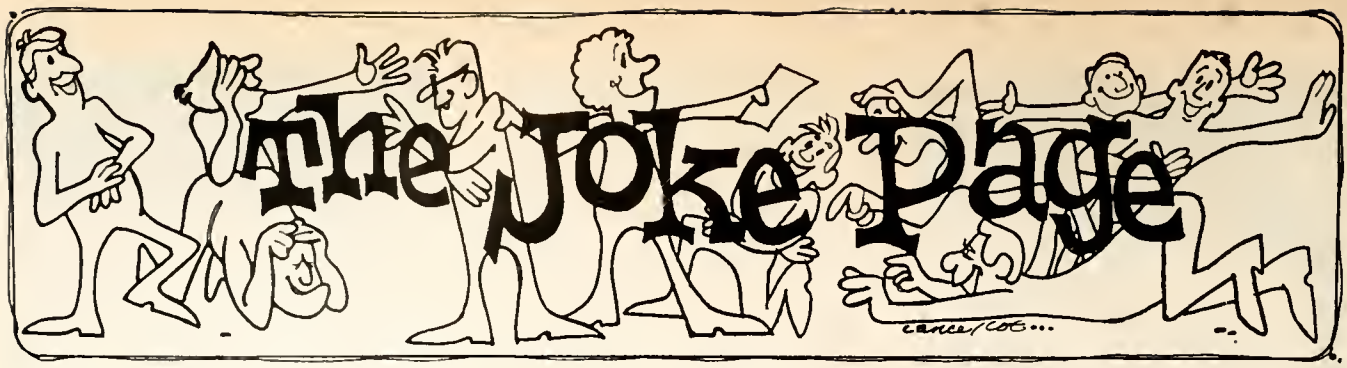


A preacher was talking to a little boy and asked, *"Young man, can you count?"*

The little boy said, *"Yes, sir"* and counted on his fingers, *"1, 2, 3, 4, 5."*

The preacher said, *"That's fine. Can you count higher?"*

So the little boy raised his hand above his head and counted, *"1, 2, 3, 4, 5."*

Lori Doud
Milford, Illinois

"I don't know who he is but I wish I had ten more men just like him!"

Question: *"When is a rodeo rider like a sailor?"*

Answer: *"When he sails over the bounding mane."*

William Bryant
Lacey's Spring, Alabama

Two older farmers were always trying to outdo one another. One day one told the other that he had bought a new hearing aid and it was the best that money could buy. The other farmer said, *"What kind is it?"*

He looked at his watch, *"9:30."*

Robert Fortenberry
Elizabeth, Louisiana

They were both writing letters, but suddenly the husband stopped and looked worried.

"What's the matter?" asked the wife.

"Why, er, I had it on the tip of my tongue and now it's gone."

"Never mind," she said, *"just think hard and it's bound to come back."*

"Thinking about it won't bring it back. It was a stamp."

Tony Perkins
Washington, Indiana

Two fishermen sitting on a bridge, their lines in the water, made a bet as to who would catch the first fish. One got a bite and got so excited he fell in.

"Oh, well," said the other, *"If you're going to dive for them, the bet's off!"*

Connie Pierce
Hebron, Kentucky

Then there was this mentally troubled dog who refused to go to a psychiatrist. *"You know quite well,"* the dog explained, *"I'm not allowed on a couch."*

John Huffman
Lendale, Georgia

The school was going to have a boxing team and a lot of young fellows tried out for it. Some were good and some were not so good. After trying hard a couple of rounds one of the not-so-good said hopefully, *"Have I done him any damage?"*

"No," said the disgusted coach, *"But keep on swinging. The draft might give him a cold."*

Brad Doll
Burlington, Colorado

Mama skunk was worried because she could never keep track of her two children. They were named In and Out and whenever In was in, Out was out; and if Out was in, In was out. One day she called Out in to her and told him to go out and bring In in. So Out went out. In no time at all he brought In in.

"Wonderful!" said Mama skunk, *"How in all that great forest could you find him in so short of time?"*

"It was easy," said Out, *"In stinct."*

Mary Anne Erickson
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

A barber had talked his way through three haircutting jobs, and now a fourth customer, who had been waiting patiently, was in the chair.

"And how would you like your hair cut?" asked the barber.

The customer replied, *"In silence."*

Burt Shackelford
Sanford, Florida

The farmer was scolding his hired man for carrying a lighted lantern to call on his girlfriend.

"The very idea!" he said, *"When I was courting I never used to carry a lantern, I went in the dark."*

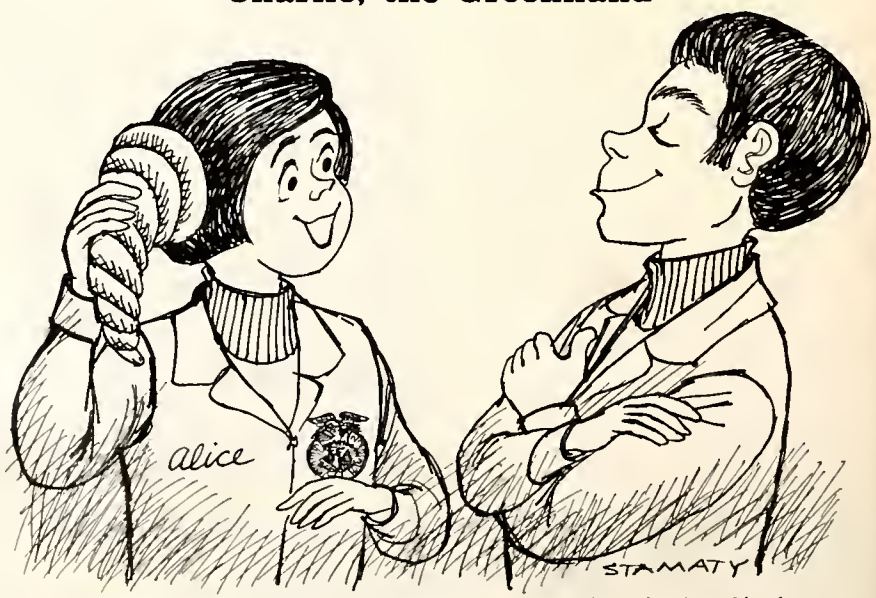
"Yes," said the hired man sadly, *"and look what you got."*

Galen Wetzel
Arcanum, Ohio

A small boy had been naughty and had been reprimanded. His mother told him he must get a whipping. He fled upstairs and hid in a far corner under a bed in his room. When the father came home the mother told him what had happened. He went upstairs and proceeded to crawl under the bed toward the youngster, who was still hiding. Excitedly the boy whispered, *"Hello, Pop, is she after you, too?"*

Laurie Sordahl
Viroqua, Wisconsin

Charlie, the Greenhand



"Fantastic! The shell does say 'Charlie, you're a born leader. Charlie, you're a born leader. Charlie' . . ."

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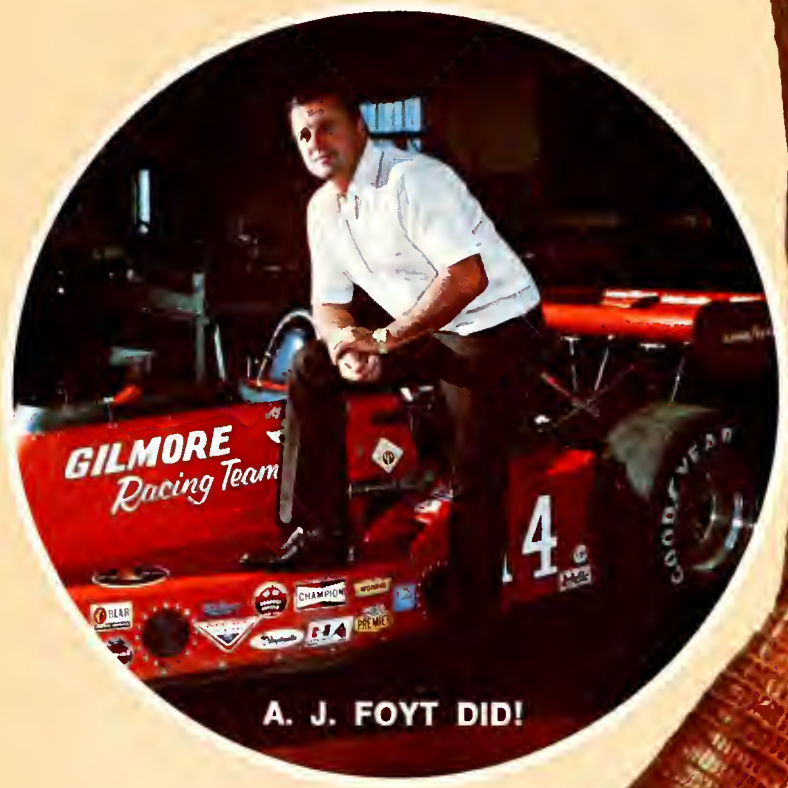

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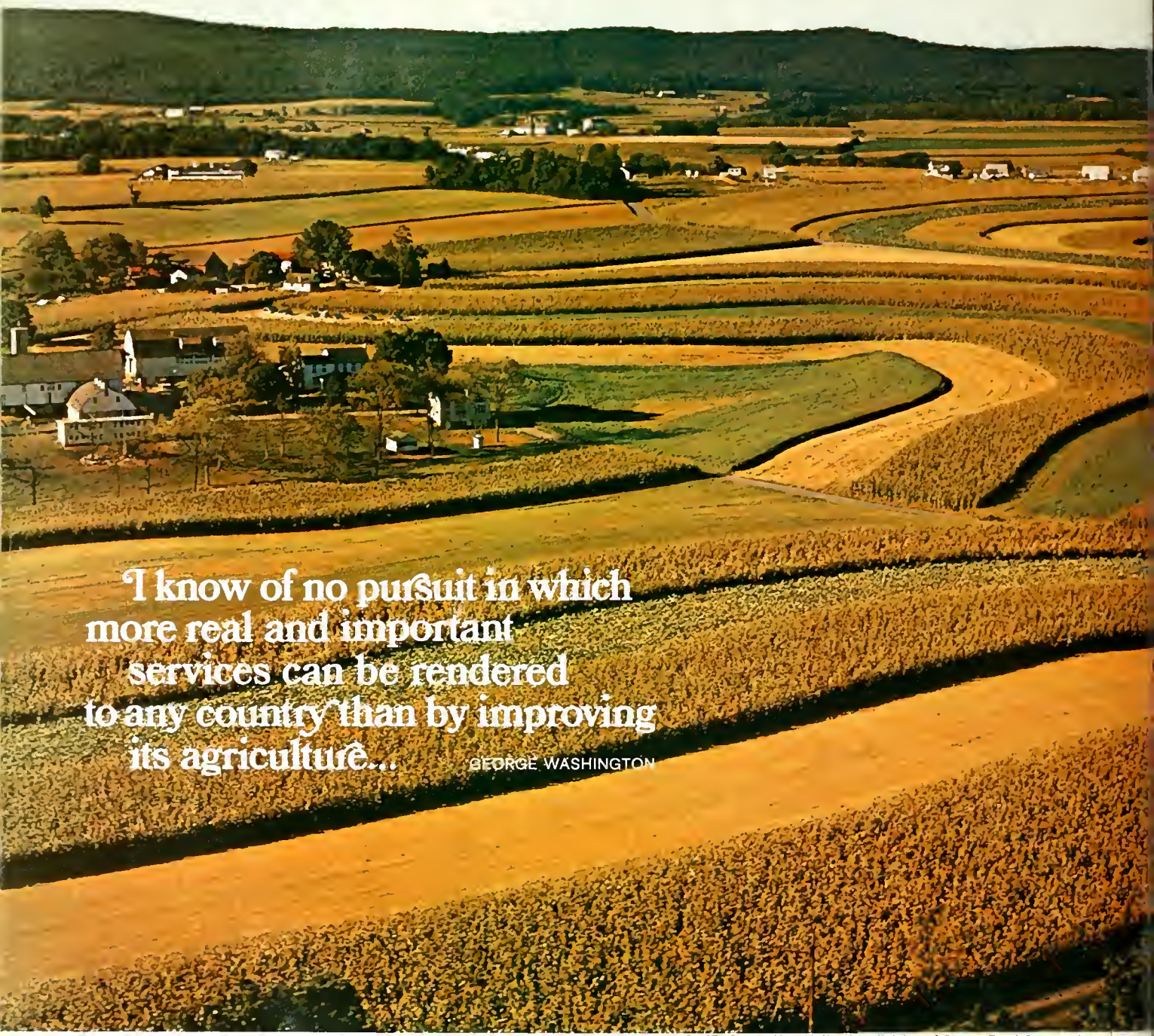
"I know of no pursuit in which
more real and important
services can be rendered
to any country than by improving
its agriculture..."
GEORGE WASHINGTON

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